PES-292 DECEMBER 1976

POULTRY AND EGG Situation

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1975				1976			
		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. doz.	450.2	437.7	454.0	442.8	448.2	435.8	452.0	
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	271	274	277	279	270	274	276	
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.9	19.1	19.7	19.0	19.9	19.1	19.6	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	50.8	55.8	52.9	58.2	60.6	62.1	60.8	
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	62.3	66.8	62.4	69.1	72.2	73.5	71.4	
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	85.7	89.0	87.6	
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	150	149	148	143	158	159	154	
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	6.8	7.5	7.1	8.1	7.7	7.8	7.9	
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	84	80	72	55	58	66	46	29
Frozen	Mil. lb.	52.1	51.9	51.0	46.6	31.6	31.0	28.7	29.1
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	34.9	33.9	34.8	28.4	38.1	37.4	36.5	
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	680.5	684.9	739.8	560.7	805.2	800.3		
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	243.8	252.8		
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	29.1	29.6	28.5	27.0	24.3	23.1	20.9	
Chicken, excluding broilers	Ct. per lb.	10.2	10.9	11.8	13.9	([1])	([1])	([1])	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	35.7	36.3	36.4	36.7	30.9	30.5	30.7	
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	50.0	49.7	47.7	45.8	41.6	39.7	36.4	
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	68.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	60.7	59.4	56.7	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	74.4	72.9	72.8	
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	163	164	164	158	177	179	170	
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.6	2.5	
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	168	170	170	164	181	181	177	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	21.7	22.5	22.7	21.9	25.7	26.6	24.3	23.8
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	248.6	328.3	409.8	472.4	262.0	369.9	457.7	512.7
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	391.8	469.6	542.0	599.8	403.5	520.8	609.4	667.6
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	57.6	54.2	54.5	56.9	63.5	60.0	57.9	

[1] Discontinued June 1976.

"Marketing Facts" for eggs, broilers, and turkeys, formerly prepared and published by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service have been discontinued. These reports were merged into the *Poultry and Egg Situation* and most of the information formerly covered in "Marketing Facts" will be included in this publication on a regularly scheduled basis.

In This Issue

	Page
Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance	2
Summary	3
Factors Affecting Poultry Industry	5
Eggs	6
Broilers	11
Turkeys	16
Selected Poultry and Egg Statistics	25
Lists of Tables	31

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SUMMARY

Egg producers have had a good year, but the broiler and turkey growers have lived up to their reputation as "boom and bust" industries. A year ago poultry producers' profits were good and the outlook favorable. Producers' responded by stepping up 1976's output to record levels. However, prices suffered and poultry producers found themselves in a price-cost squeeze by late summer. Prospects for first half 1977 are not very favorable for broilers and turkeys. Egg producers' profits turned positive in late 1975 and have continued so throughout 1976. And unlike poultry producers, prospects look favorable for egg producers in 1977.

Egg output through October totaled slightly above a year earlier. Layer numbers were down 1 percent, but this was offset by increased output per hen and an extra day of production due to leap year. Layer numbers on November 1 were slightly below a year earlier, but they are expected to gain slowly in coming months. The egg-type hatch indicates there will be about the same number of replacement pullets as a year earlier during the remainder of 1976 but significantly more this winter and spring.

The rate of lay dropped below year-earlier levels in September but should gain in coming months. Thus, egg production may average 1 to 2 percent above 1976 during the first half of 1977.

Smaller available market supplies and relatively strong demand have resulted in higher egg prices than a year ago since last winter. New York wholesale prices for Grade A large eggs averaged 67 cents a dozen during July-September, and will average in the low 70's this fall. Prices are expected to remain relatively strong through next winter and average around the mid-60's but then will decline as usual next spring to around the mid-50 cents a dozen range.

Prospects for the second half of 1977 look favorable for egg producers unless they expand output too rapidly. The level of output will depend on poducers' profit margins in the first half of 1977 and prospects for the 1977 crops. Output is expected to continue to expand and may average 2 percent or more above July-December 1976. The expected continued gain in general economic conditions will help bolster egg prices; however, the increased output in the first half is expected to result in egg

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in early March

prices averaging below second half 1976 levels. If output expands as expected, second half 1977 prices may average about a nickel below the 69 cents a dozen (wholesale Grade A large eggs in New York) estimated for the second half of 1976.

Broiler meat output in 1976 will total around a record 9.1 billion pounds, ready-to-cook weight, a billion pounds more than in 1975. Production through September was up 14 percent from last year but is expected to narrow to around 10 percent higher for October-December. Producers are expected to adjust to prospective unfavorable profit margins in the first half of 1977 and gradually slow their output. Still, first quarter output may total around 6 percent above a year earlier before dropping back to 1976 level by mid-1977.

Broiler prices have dropped sharply from their July peak and in November wholesale broiler prices in 9-cities averaged about 35 cents a pound. This was 11 cents below last year and the lowest monthly average since June 1974. Prices will remain relatively weak but likely will show some seasonal increase after the Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday season. Broilers will continue to face increased competition from pork in the first half of 1977 and prices may average 4 to 6 cents below the 42-cent average for January-June 976.

Turkey meat output through September was nearly 19 percent larger than 1975. The increase over last year has narrowed and output for October-December probably will only be up around 6 percent. The lack of profits in recent months and a dismal outlook for at least the first half of 1977 probably will cause prodcers to reduce poult production in coming months. However, poult production in recent months indicates that turkey marketings during the first quarter of 1977 may be about the same as in 1976.

Large production and rising cold storage stocks combined with large supplies of competing meats have kept turkey prices weak this year. New York wholesale prices for young hens averaged about 48 cents a pound in October, about the same as a month earlier, but 10 cents below October 1975. Turkey prices will continue under pressure from large supplies of turkey and competing meats. It appears they could average in the mid-40-cent range in early 1977.

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Production and changes from a year earlier

	1975				1976				1977	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV[1]	I[1]	II[1]
Eggs (Mil. dozens)	1,340	1,330	1,337	1,356	1,356	1,337	1,334	(1,360)	(1,370)	(1,355)
Percent change	-4	-5	-1	0	+1	+0.5	0	+0.5	+1	+1.5
Broiler[2] (Mil. lbs.)	1,833	2,061	2,080	1,992	2,116	2,314	2,372	(2,200)	(2,240)	(2,360)
Percent change	-6	-2	+1	+11	+15	+12	+14	+10	+6	+2
Turkeys[3] (Mil. lbs.)	166	289	625	635	207	369	710	(670)	(205)	(330)
Percent change	-23	-18	-7	+7	+24	+28	+14	+6	0	-10
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	5,842	5,593	5,942	6,296	6,491	6,143	6,617	(6,500)	(5,900)	(5,950)
Percent change	+8	-1	+3	+5	+11	+10	+11	+3	-9	-3
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	3,044	2,923	2,512	2,835	2,895	2,782	2,952	(3,600)	(3,500)	(3,300)
Percent change	-10	-17	-23	-17	-5	-5	+18	+27	+21	+19

Eggs, Poultry, and Livestock Prices

	1975				1976				1977	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV[1]	I[1]	II[1]
Eggs, New York[4] (Cents/dozen)	59.0	50.0	57.5	64.7	61.9	57.6	66.9	(71-73)	(64-66)	(55-57)
Broiler, 9-City[5] (Cents/lb.)	41.2	43.7	50.3	45.1	42.2	41.7	41.5	(34-36)	(36-38)	(36-38)
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	48.6	51.1	57.1	56.0	49.5	48.2	48.5	(47-49)	(44-46)	(45-47)
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/100 lbs.)	35.7	48.0	48.6	46.0	38.7	41.4	37.3	(38-40)	(41-43)	(43-45)
Barrows and Gilts, 7 Markets (Dol./100 lbs.)	39.4	46.1	58.8	52.2	48.0	49.2	43.9	(32-34)	(34-36)	(35-37)

[1]Forecast. [2]Federally inspected slaughter. [3]Commercial production. [4]Wholesale, grade A large white. [5]Wholesale weighted average. [6]Wholesale, 8-16 pound young hens.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING POULTRY INDUSTRY

Economic Growth Slows

General economic conditions have improved this year and prospects continue favorable for further growth despite the recent pause and slower growth. While the unemployment rate has remained in the 7.8 to 7.9 percent range in recent months, the number of people employed continues to gain and consumer incomes continue to increase. Also, the inflation rate has slowed. Real per capita disposable incomes are likely to rise around 3 percent this year and continue to improve next year. This should support continued expansion in consumer demand for food (including poultry and eggs) in the coming year.

Feed Ingredient Prices Strong

Production costs for poultry and egg producers trailed year-earlier levels through mid-1976, but increased in the third quarter because of a sharp rise in corn and soybean prices in late spring and early summer. Estimates show that third quarter 1976 feed costs were the highest since the fall of 1974 for broiler and egg producers and the first quarter of 1975 for turkeys (tables 14, 15, and 16).

Corn and soybean meal prices have generally trended lower after peaking in July but have again strengthened. Corn prices have dropped below year-earlier levels but soybean prices remain well above. Market prices for feed grains and soybean meal will remain sensitive to market developments in coming months.

As of November 1, the 1976 corn crop was estimated at a record 6.1 billion bushels, up 300 million bushels from last year. With old grain carryin stocks of nearly 40 million bushels total corn supplies for 1976/77 will be around 5 percent above 1975/76.

Domestic feeding of corn in 1976/77 may increase about 6-8 percent but export volume may run around 5 to 6 percent below the record shipments in 1975/76. Total disappearance in 1976/77 may fall short of production resulting in some recovery in carryover stocks in 1977. These prospects would suggest that corn prices at the farm for the year beginning October 1, 1976 may range between $2.20 and $2.60 a bushel, compared with $2.55 per bushel in 1975/76.

This year's soybean crop is estimated at 1,250 million bushels, down nearly a fifth from the 1975 crop. Although soybean stocks on Sptember 1 were up from a year earlier, total supplies in 1976/77 will be smaller and soybean crushings are expected to drop around a tenth below last season's record 865 million bushels. These prospects likely mean higher soybean meal prices in 1977.

The cost of producing poultry and eggs in the months ahead will depend greatly on how buyers time their feed purchases. The average price of feed may be near that of a year earlier if prospects of slightly lower than a year earlier corn prices and moderately higher soybean meal prices materialize.

Costs for most other production items likely will continue to trend upward during 1977. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for mid-October was 194, down 1 point (½ percent) from a month earlier but 5 percent above October 1975. The index of farm wage rates was up nearly 9 percent, interest 7 percent, and taxes 4 percent.

Growing Pork Supplies

Gains in red meat output have impacted sharply on broiler and turkey prices this year and will continue to do so in 1977. Commercial red meat production for all of 1976 may total 6 or 7 percent above 1975. This would mean an additional 2½ billion pounds of red meat that competed with broilers and turkeys for the consumer's dollars. Beef production increased around 10 percent over year-earlier levels during each of the first three quarters. Pork production lagged year earlier levels until the third quarter when it exceeded the previous year by 18 percent.

Red meat output in coming months will be dominated by prospects for the continued cyclical expansion in pork production and a continued large, but easing, beef output. Producers have indicated that farrowings for first-half 1977 marketings will be 17 to 19 percent above a year earlier. Farrowings next spring will likely show a more moderate gain from a year earlier, suggesting a continued increase in pork supplies through 1977.

Beef production is running at record levels this fall but may drop below year-earlier levels in early 1977. Lower-than-expected fatcattle prices and sustained cattle feeding losses will likely hold feedlot placements in coming months below year-earlier

levels and would indicate some reduction in fed cattle slaughter during the first half of 1977.

Larger pork supplies, combined with continued large supplies of other meats, likely will be reflected in lower pork prices this winter, possibly a fourth below a year earlier. But with seasonal reductions in slaughter next spring, prices are expected to strengthen.

The continued slaughter of a sizable number of fed cattle and gains in other meat supplies will limit price increases for beef in the first half of 1977. However, prices should pick up as beef output eases from year-earlier levels in early 1977. Prices of Choice steers, Omaha, may run moderately above a year earlier in the spring.

Poultry producers will be facing less competition from beef in 1977 but much stronger competition from pork. In total, red meat supplies through mid-1977 will likely exert stronger downward price pressure on poultry meat than in the first half of 1976.

EGGS

Prospects Favorable

Most egg producers have had a good year in 1976 and, unlike poultry producers, prospects for 1977 continue favorable. Producers generally have had positive profit margins since August 1975—the longest period of sustained profits in many years. This is a welcome relief for egg producers because in 1974 and 1975 not only did egg output drop but so did egg prices.

Despite the favorable climate for egg producers during the past 12 months, egg production has remained relatively stable. Egg output during January-October totaled 4.5 billion dozen eggs, slightly above 1975 levels. However, this increase primarily reflects an extra day of production because of leap year.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*
I	282	279	57.0	58.3	1,339.6	1,355.8
II	273	270	58.5	59.4	1,329.7	1,337.4
III	272	271	59.0	59.2	1,336.8	1,333.6
IV	279		58.4		1,355.8	
Annual .	276		232.8		5,361.9	

While layer numbers continue below a year earlier, they have shown significant gains since the beginning of the year. They began 1976 about 2½ percent below 1975 but were only slightly below on November 1. Layer numbers should slowly approach year-earlier levels in coming months.

Egg-type replacement hatch, by quarters, 1970-76

Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
1970 ...	78.9	92.5	57.5	56.6	285.5
1971 ...	70.5	87.1	57.0	49.1	263.7
1972 ...	64.4	73.9	56.0	51.3	245.7
1973 ...	66.1	77.0	63.2	60.8	267.1
1974 ...	59.5	75.0	51.9	50.3	236.7
1975 ...	58.4	68.1	53.4	47.0	226.9
1976 ...	62.0	70.2	56.7		

The egg-type hatch indicates that the number of replacement pullets during the remainder of 1976 will not differ much from a year earlier. However, there will be more next winter and spring. The egg-type hatch in August-October was 8 percent above 1975 levels and eggs in incubators on November 1 were up 21 percent (table 2).

If culling of old layers continues heavy as it has in recent months, it may be late this winter before layer numbers show any significant gains. Heavier culling of old flocks this year has partially offset the increases in replacement pullets. Mature chicken slaughter during January-September in federally inspected plants was up 4 percent from the comparable period of 1975. Slaughter in August-September alone was up 2.6 million birds, or nearly a tenth higher. Weekly reports indicate that slaughter continued relatively heavy in October and early November.

Despite heavier slaughter, force moltings continue relatively high. However, the number has dropped below a year earlier in recent months. On November 1, 17 States reported 4.6 percent of their layers were being force molted while 14.9 percent had completed at least one molt. This compares with 4.3 and 15.7 percent, respectively, a year earlier (table 3).

Output per hen has continued to expand this year and was record large on July 1. It dropped below a year earlier on September 1 but was equal to 1975 levels on November 1. It is expected to continue to gain in coming months as more pullets enter the flock.

Egg production this fall is expected to be slightly above a year earlier. For all of 1976 output will total around 5.4 billion dozen eggs, a small increase from 1975. This would be the first year since 1971 that annual egg production has surpassed year-earlier levels. Production will likely continue to increase next year and average 1 to 2 percent higher in the first half of 1977.

1976 Consumption To Drop Further

Production has been up this year, but there have been fewer eggs available for consumption because of reduced stocks and increased hatching use. Cold

Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations, United States and 5 States reporting weekly, 1974-76

Month	United States				5 States[1]							
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch			Period[2]	Egg settings advanced 3 weeks			
	1974-75	1975-76	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1974-75	1975-76	Change from year earlier		1974-75	1975-76	Change from year earlier	
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct*		*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	
January	34,818	35,655	2	3	8,788	9,857	12	Jan. 4-Jan. 31	9,887	10,783	9	
February	36,552	39,197	7	5	9,422	11,471	22	Feb. 1-Feb. 28	11,847	13,717	16	
March	45,372	49,085	8	6	10,816	12,690	17	Feb. 29-Apr. 3	15,297	17,995	18	
April	47,409	50,813	7	1	9,420	11,622	23	Apr. 4-May 1	11,080	14,089	27	
May	47,989	47,632	-1	-1	10,593	10,962	3	May 2-May 29	12,146	13,291	9	
June	40,854	41,859	2	3	9,808	9,798	0	May 30-July 3	11,915	12,187	2	
July	38,099	38,001	0	1	9,621	9,430	-2	July 4-July 31	11,205	11,300	1	
August	34,934	38,135	9	4	8,816	9,993	13	Aug. 1-Aug. 28	11,088	11,494	4	
September	33,851	37,356	10	10	8,394	8,780	5	Aug. 29-Oct. 2	11,965	13,564	13	
October	34,801	36,498	5	9	8,896	8,911	0	Oct. 3-Oct. 30	10,664	10,277	-4	
November	28,446			21				Oct. 31-Nov. 27	9,676	9,967	3	
December	30,679							Nov. 28-Jan. 1	11,000			

[1] The five States are Georgia, Mississippi, Oregon, Washington, and California. [2] Weeks of 1976 and corresponding weeks of 1975.

Table 3—Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age first of month, selected States, 1975-76

State	Being molted						Molt completed					
	September		October		November		September		October		November	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Alabama	2.5	1.5	2.0	1.0	2.0	.5	12.5	7.0	12.5	7.5	10.5	6.5
Arkansas	1.0	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.5	4.5	6.0	5.5	7.5	5.5	6.5
California	8.5	8.0	9.0	9.5	10.5	11.5	36.0	32.0	41.0	33.5	37.0	35.0
Florida	3.0	1.5	3.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	14.5	17.0	17.0	17.0	19.0	15.5
Georgia	2.0	3.5	4.5	2.0	6.0	4.0	19.5	15.0	20.0	16.0	21.0	16.0
Indiana	.5	1.5	.5	2.5	.5	4.0	6.5	4.5	6.5	7.0	7.0	8.5
Iowa	1.5	2.5	.5	5.5	.5	4.5	.5	6.0	1.5	8.5	.5	12.0
Mississippi	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.5	5.0	4.0	.5	.5	1.0	.5	1.0	.5
New York	1.0	3.0	.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	15.0	1.5	13.0	3.0	9.0	4.5
North Carolina	4.0	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	2.0	8.0	7.5	11.0	7.5	8.0	5.5
Ohio	1.5	2.5	3.0	2.0	3.0	.5	3.5	9.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	5.0
Oregon	2.5	10.5	10.5	7.0	1.5	4.0	30.0	25.0	30.0	32.0	36.0	34.0
Pennsylvania	2.0	.5	3.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	6.0	5.5	4.5	8.5	6.5	6.0
South Carolina	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	3.0	11.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	9.5	8.5
Tennessee	1.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	11.0	7.0	11.0	10.0	6.0	10.0
Texas	1.0	1.5	1.0	.5	2.0	1.5	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	3.0	5.0
Washington	12.0	8.0	9.5	7.5	9.5	9.0	31.5	36.0	33.0	37.0	38.0	34.5
17 States	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.6	4.3	4.6	15.2	13.9	16.7	15.0	15.7	14.9

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1967-71 average and 1972-76*

Month	1967-71 average	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
January	22.6	22.1	21.7	20.0	19.6	20.3
February	24.4	23.1	22.9	21.3	20.4	22.2
March	33.0	26.7	29.1	26.0	25.4	27.4
April	36.7	29.8	30.0	30.1	26.2	28.5
May	34.6	28.8	30.6	28.8	26.9	27.0
June	27.5	24.1	24.9	24.2	22.9	23.6
July	22.7	22.0	23.1	20.6	21.5	21.8
August	20.8	21.3	23.8	19.8	20.1	21.9
September	21.5	20.5	24.1	18.2	19.6	21.3
October	21.7	21.4	25.9	19.9	19.8	20.9
November	19.6	18.6	22.5	18.7	16.5	
December	19.7	18.4	20.0	18.4	17.7	
Total	304.8	276.8	298.6	266.0	258.9	

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

storage stocks of shell eggs and frozen eggs on January 1—at 28 million dozen (shell equivalent)—were down nearly a third from a year earlier, setting a record low for that date.

The sharp increase in broiler output has resulted in a substantial increase in the use of eggs for hatching purposes. Through September, about 307 million dozen eggs were used for hatching purposes, 10 percent more than last year. Hatching use took about 7.6 percent of total egg production, compared with 7 percent last year (table 4).

Although small compared with domestic egg production, imports have dropped sharply this year. Imports of shell eggs and egg products through September this year totaled 2.1 million dozen eggs (shell equivalent), down from 5.5 million dozen a year earlier. Exports and shipments to American territories of shell eggs and egg products during January-September totaled 49.1 million dozen, slightly above a year earlier.

The reduced stocks and imports, along with increased hatching use, has resulted in market egg supplies being below 1975 levels. Egg consumption is continuing its downtrend of recent years and for all of 1976 consumption is expected to drop around 3 eggs per person below the 278 registered in 1975 (table 17). However, use of egg products may show a slight increase.

During January-September, commercial egg breakers broke around 440 million dozen eggs under federal inspection, slightly above a year earlier (table 5). Commercial egg breakers are expected to continue making fairly heavy purchases in coming months because there are limited stocks of egg products available. However, high shell egg prices will likely mean commercial egg breakers will take only what they need for immediate use until next spring.

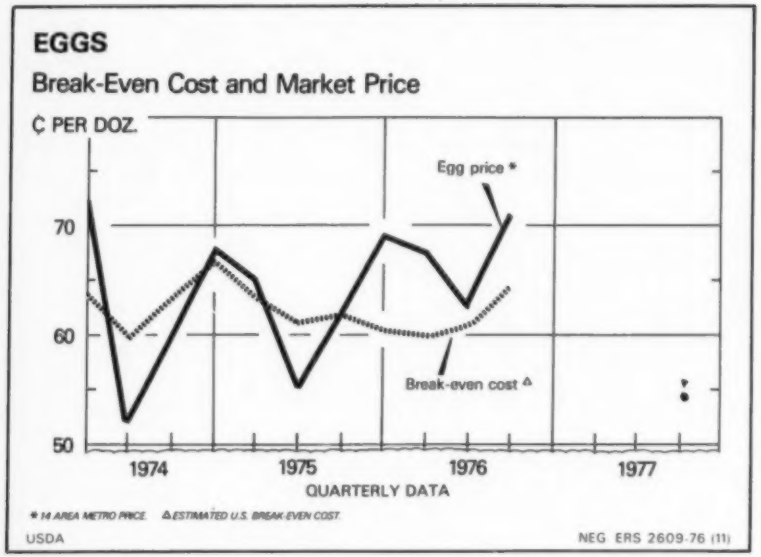
Cold storage holdings of shell eggs and egg products have been record low this year. Stocks totaled 23.0 million dozen (shell equivalent) on November 1, down 38 percent from last year (table 13).

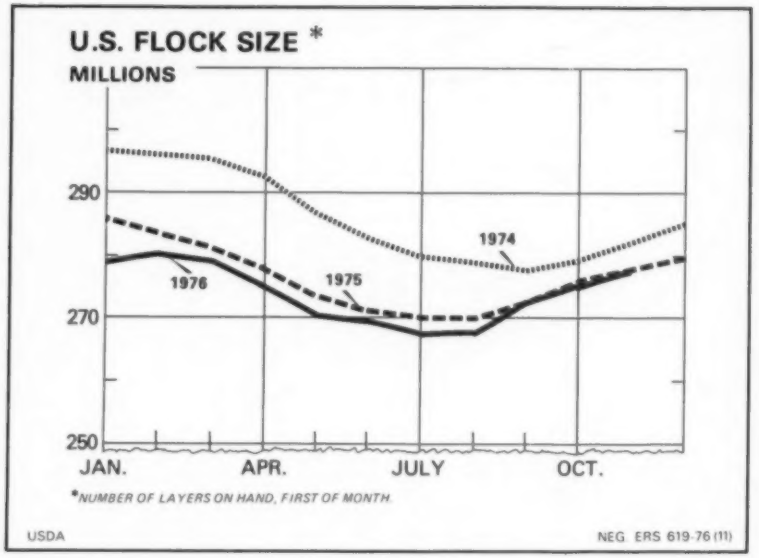
Prices Higher

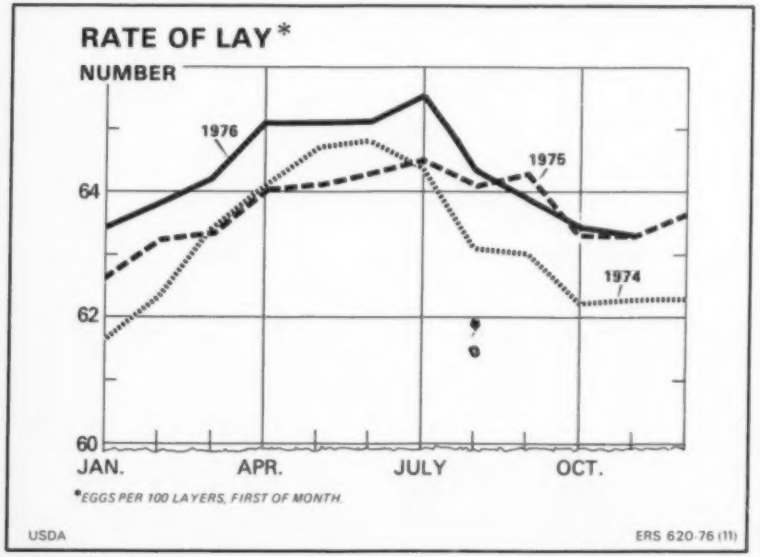
Lower available supplies and relatively strong demand have resulted in higher than year-earlier egg prices since last winter. Improvements in general economic conditions have contributed to the increased demand for shell eggs and egg products. Wholesale prices for Grade A large eggs in New York averaged nearly 67 cents a dozen during the third quarter, around a dime above a year earlier. Prices weakened in late September but have strengthened again and by mid-November averaged 75 cents a dozen. The demand for eggs is

Table 4—Egg supplies available to civilians for food, January-March, April-June, and July-September, 1975-1976

Item	Unit	January-March			April-June			July-September		
		1975	1976	Change from year earlier	1975	1976	Change from year earlier	1975	1976	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Mil. doz.	42.2	28.2	-14.0	36.4	23.0	-13.4	38.7	23.8	-14.9
Farm production	Mil. doz.	1,339.6	1,355.8	16.2	1,329.7	1,337.4	7.7	1,336.8	1,333.7	-3.1
Imports	Mil. doz.	3.0	0.1	-2.9	0.9	0.3	-0.6	1.6	1.7	.1
Exports and shipments	Mil. doz.	12.8	15.2	2.4	17.3	15.9	-1.4	18.4	18.0	-.4
Military procurements	Mil. doz.	9.7	13.1	3.4	11.9	10.8	-1.1	10.1	9.3	-.8
Eggs used for hatching	Mil. doz.	93.7	104.2	10.5	97.3	107.4	10.1	88.4	95.8	7.4
Supplies available to civilians for food:										
Total	Mil. doz.	1,268.6	1,251.6	-17.0	1,240.5	1,226.6	-13.9	1,260.2	1,236.1	-24.1
Per capita	No.	72.2	70.7	-1.5	70.5	69.2	-1.3	71.4	69.6	-1.8
Civilian population	Mil.	210.8	212.5	1.7	211.2	212.8	1.6	211.7	213.2	1.5


EGGS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER DOZ.
Egg price *
Break-even cost Δ
70
60
50
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* 14 AREA METRO PRICE. ΔESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ERS 2609-76 (11)


U.S. FLOCK SIZE *
MILLIONS
290
270
250
1974
1976
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA
NEG. ERS 619-76 (11)


RATE OF LAY *
NUMBER
1976
1975
1974
64
62
60
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA
ERS 620-76 (11)

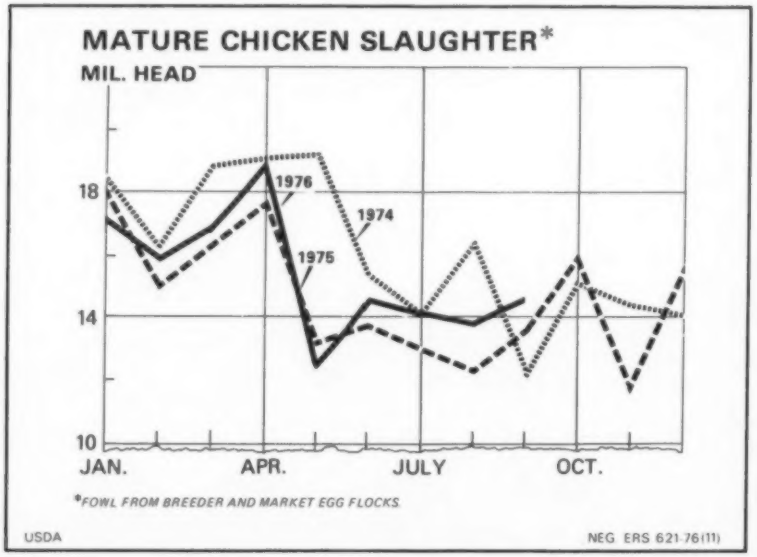

MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
1976
1974
1975
18
14
10
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621-76 (11)

Table 5—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1975-76

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken		Egg products produced[2]					
			Liquid[3]		Frozen		Dried	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. doz.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
Jan. 5-Feb. 1	39,854	36,069	22,012	21,263	22,380	20,190	4,220	3,115
Feb. 2-Mar. 1	36,547	37,569	21,409	23,729	20,181	20,670	3,240	3,079
Mar. 2-Mar. 29	34,525	44,727	22,941	26,076	18,866	24,695	2,954	4,726
Mar. 30-Apr. 26	38,774	46,143	23,095	26,107	21,215	26,550	3,955	4,443
Apr. 27-May 24	45,509	45,863	25,685	28,198	25,945	23,688	4,329	4,974
May 25-June 30	67,789	68,698	36,389	41,699	39,645	36,648	6,299	6,967
July 1-July 19	36,159	28,425	18,107	16,315	20,585	15,971	3,827	3,472
July 20-Aug. 16	50,116	48,264	27,421	29,420	26,067	23,802	5,123	6,064
Aug. 17-Sept. 13	46,690	45,044	26,074	27,117	24,155	22,331	4,903	4,840
Sept. 14-Oct. 11[4]	48,056	36,847	25,893	24,106	24,831	16,381	5,418	3,986
Oct. 12-Nov. 8	44,074		26,108		21,635		5,482	
Nov. 9-Dec. 6	33,638		20,319		19,155		3,983	
Dec. 7-Jan. 3	29,676		16,458		17,901		2,364	

[1] Weeks in 1975 and corresponding weeks in 1976. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing. [4] Sept. 12-Sept. 30 in 1976, periods changed to reflect new fiscal year.

Shell egg prices

Calendar quarter	Received by producers		New York wholesale[1]		14 Metro areas[2]	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per doz.	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*
I	55.1	58.7	59.0	61.9	64.8	67.7
II	46.7	54.2	50.0	57.6	55.3	62.5
III	51.0	59.4	57.5	66.9	62.0	71.2
IV	58.4		64.7		69.1	
Annual	52.5		57.8		62.8	

[1] Grade A white. [2] Price to volume buyers for consumer Grade A large.

expected to remain strong this fall and winter but will decline as usual next spring. If production averages 1 to 2 percent above a year earlier in the first half of 1977, prices for large eggs in New York are expected to average near the January-June 1976 levels. However, if output does not expand as expected, then prices will be higher than a year earlier.

Second Half 1977 Prospects

Egg producers have had a good year in 1976 and prospects look favorable for most of 1977. However, much will depend on how well egg producers' profit margins hold up in the first half of 1977.

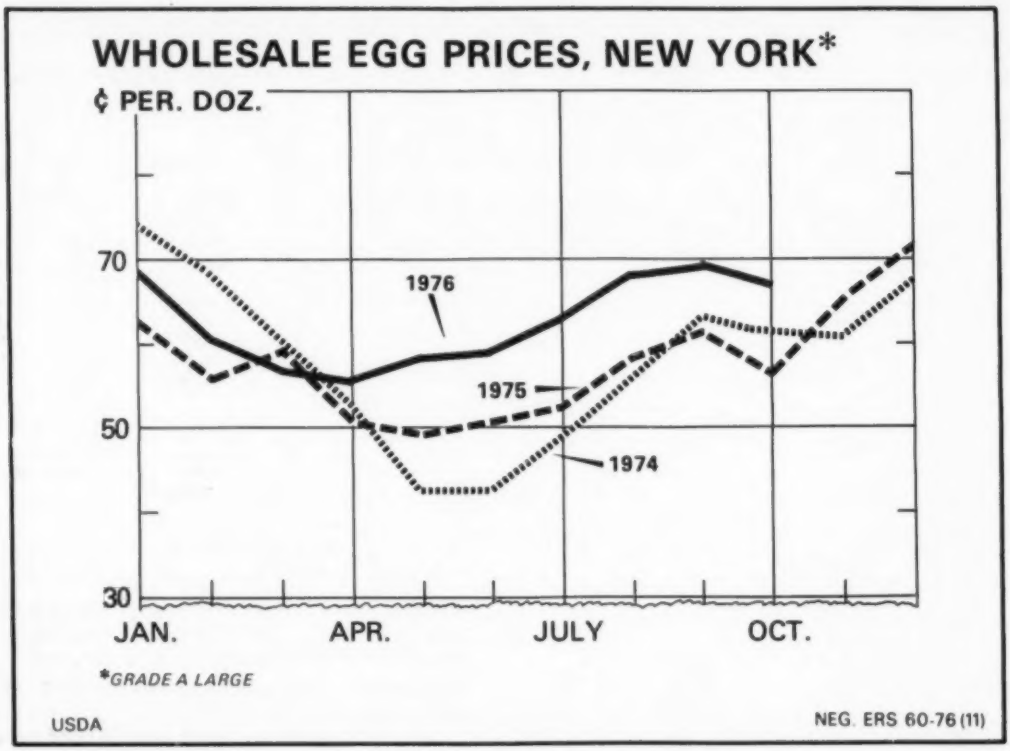
Feed prices in the second half of 1977 will depend not only on the supplies and prices for this year's crops, but also on prospects for 1977 crops. If the 1977 corn crop is big again next year and domestic and foreign demand holds around levels now in prospect, corn prices may ease further after mid-1977. But a smaller U.S. feed grain crop, or short world crops, could result in stronger prices next summer.

The reduced soybean crop this year will likely mean soybean meal prices above a year earlier until the size of the 1977 crop is determined. If there is a large 1977 crop, prices next summer may not differ much from this summer and they could drop below a year earlier next fall.

It is difficult to determine from historical relationships what impact general economic conditions (such as income and employment) have on egg prices. However, improved general conditions in 1976 and prospects for further improvements in 1977 should have a strengthening influence on egg prices.

If egg producers' profit margins remain good in the first half of 1977, producers will hatch more eggs for second half replacement pullets. Also, producers would keep their old layers in the flocks longer. Layer numbers next July 1 could be 1-2 percent above a year earlier and, unless feed prices gain more than expected and/or egg prices are lower than currently forecast, layer numbers should gain some more in the second half.

Output per hen will likely continue to expand next year. Thus, total egg production in the second half of 1977 may average 2 to 3 percent above July-December 1976. This level of production assumes hatching egg use at about the same level as a year earlier. If broiler producers (the major users of hatching eggs) get into a severe cost-price squeeze in the first half of 1977, hatching use could drop below year-earlier levels.



Commercial breakers will likely take advantage of the prospective lower egg prices by increasing their activity. Since holdings of frozen egg products probably will be relatively low in mid-1977, commercial breakers may increase their activity significantly in order to build up stocks.

Table 6—Estimated July-December 1977 Egg Price/Supply Relationships[1]

Total Egg Production		New York wholesale large white egg price[2]
Million dozens	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per dozen
2,776	+3	57-60
2,749	+2	61-64
2,722	+1	65-68
2,695	0	[3]69-72
2,668	-1	73-76
2,641	-2	77-80
2,614	-3	81-84

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] USDA, loose, minimum 10% AA, 75% A quality. [3] The estimated 69-72 cents a dozen is based on prospective conditions for general economic activity, and assumes no change from a year earlier in total egg production, hatching egg use, and breaking use.

The price, other than the base price, were estimated by assuming the same conditions as under the base except that total egg production was changed.

Total egg production, hatchng use, and breaking use equal to July-December 1976 would be expected to result in an average price (New York Grade A large) in July-December 1977 averaging around the 69 cents a dozen estimated in the second half of 1976. However, if egg production increases around 2 percent as expected and increases in use by commercial breakers are moderate, egg prices (New York Grade A large) may average 6 to 8 cents a dozen lower than a year earlier in the second half of 1977. Historical relationships indicate that a 1-percent change in total egg production from the base estimate would usually results in about a 4-cents-a-dozen change in egg prices in the opposite direction.

BROILERS

Expansion Winding Down

Broiler producers begn expanding output in early 1975 as feed prices eased and broiler prices strengthened. B the fourth quarter of 1975, broiler meat output averaged 11 percent above the reduced output for the same quarter of 1974. Broiler output continued to expand rapidly in 1976 and for all of this year will reach a record 9.1 billion pounds

Table 7—Eggs: Supply and utilization July-December, 1965-75[1]

Year	Supply				Utilization					
							Domestic disappearance			
	Production	Imports	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Eggs used for hatching	Military	Civilian	
									Total	Per capita
1965	2,663.3	.2	79.8	2,743.3	41.3	21.1	152.8	49.1	2,479.0	154.8
1966	2,752.9	3.9	45.4	2,802.2	28.3	21.4	167.9	50.4	2,534.2	156.9
1967	2,860.9	1.2	77.1	2,939.2	70.6	28.3	163.2	50.6	2,626.5	161.0
1968	2,759.9	2.3	90.4	2,852.6	56.4	19.8	171.0	50.4	2,555.0	155.2
1969	2,791.9	6.7	55.1	2,853.7	33.9	18.8	189.7	37.6	2,573.7	154.6
1970	2,861.2	7.4	47.0	2,915.6	39.4	23.2	182.2	28.0	2,642.8	156.7
1971	2,911.2	2.9	60.0	2,974.1	57.9	22.3	184.3	53.6	2,656.0	155.6
1972	2,833.8	1.2	71.7	3,906.7	53.0	29.8	184.4	35.4	2,604.1	151.0
1973	2,748.5	5.5	36.9	2,790.9	33.8	24.9	190.6	17.6	2,524.0	145.3
1974	2,704.6	8.1	44.9	2,757.6	42.2	26.8	166.6	18.6	2,503.4	142.9
1975	2,692.6	1.8	38.7	2,733.1	28.2	32.2	179.7	20.9	2,472.1	140.0

(ready-to-cook) or around 3.3 billion birds. The number of pounds produced will be up around 13 percent from 1975 and about 12 percent more than the previous record in 1972.

Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	671.2	764.7	3.77	3.82	1,833.0	2,116.4
II	755.5	842.9	3.76	3.78	2,061.5	2,313.7
III	773.9	864.7	3.70	3.79	2,079.6	2,371.6
IV	721.2		3.82		1,992.0	
Annual .	2,921.8		3.76		7,966.1	

Broiler meat output in federally inspected plants through September this year exceeded a year earlier by 14 percent and totaled 6.8 billion pounds. There were a little over 12 percent more broilers marketed at nearly 2 percent heavier weights. Output for October-December is expected to be at record levels, but the increase over 1975 will narrow to around 10 percent. Broiler chick placements for December marketings have been held to only about a 7 percent increase (table 8).

The short production period—about 11 weeks from time the eggs are placed in the incubator until the broilers are marketed—gives broiler producers the ability to rapidly change production levels. Historically, however, broiler producers have not responded to unfavorable situations as rapidly as they could. This is expected to remain true in the coming months, even though many producers have lost money in recent weeks and are likely to continue to be squeezed in the months ahead.

One contributing factor to a slow response in adjusting output is the marketing of broilers under a brand name. Producers don't want to give up any of their hard-won markets so they are reluctant to cut back output. Also, some producers enjoy a price premium for their brand name broilers which helps them cover their increased costs.

Broiler Prices Drop

Broiler prices continued relatively strong this summer in the face of sharply larger supplies of both poultry and red meats and declining red meat prices. Total commercial red meat production and federally inspected broiler and turkey meat output during July-September was up more than a tenth from a year earlier. Wholesale broiler prices in 9 cities during these months averaged 41.5 cents a pound, down slightly from April-June but nearly 9 cents below the high levels a year earlier. Broiler prices normally drop in the fall but the drop has been sharp this year. In November, prices averaged about 35 cents a pound, down 11 cents from November 1975 and the lowest monthly average since June 1974. Broiler prices are expected to remain weak during the balance of 1976. With continued large output, prices may show only limited seasonal increases this winter and spring and average 4-6 cents below the 42 cents average of January-June 1976.

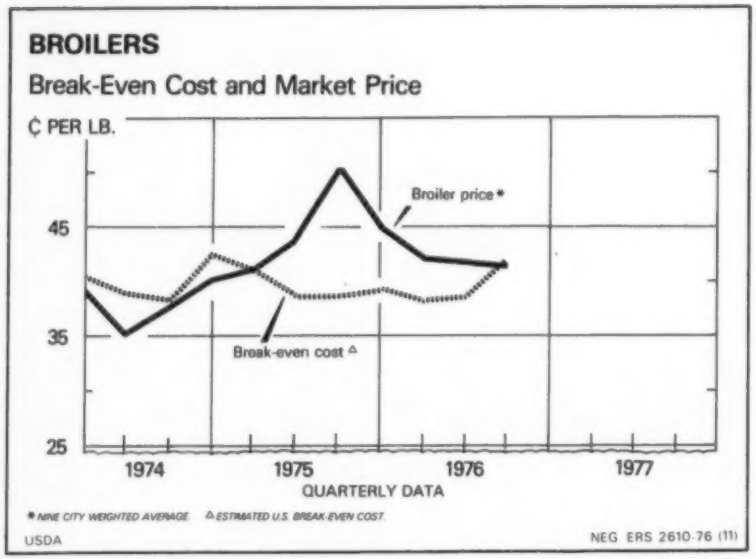
Broiler prices

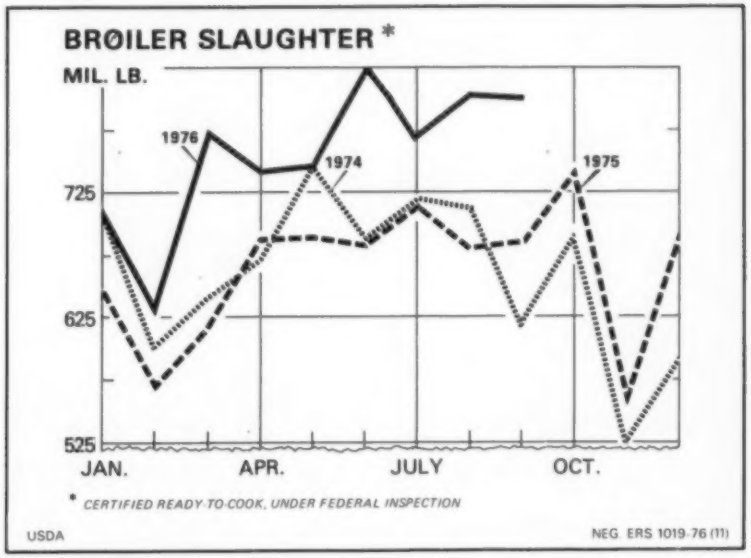
Calendar quarters	Liveweight		9-city	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per pound			
I	23.9	24.6	41.2	42.2
II	25.1	24.2	43.7	41.7
III	29.5	24.3	50.3	41.5
IV	26.5		45.1	
Annual ...	26.3		45.1	

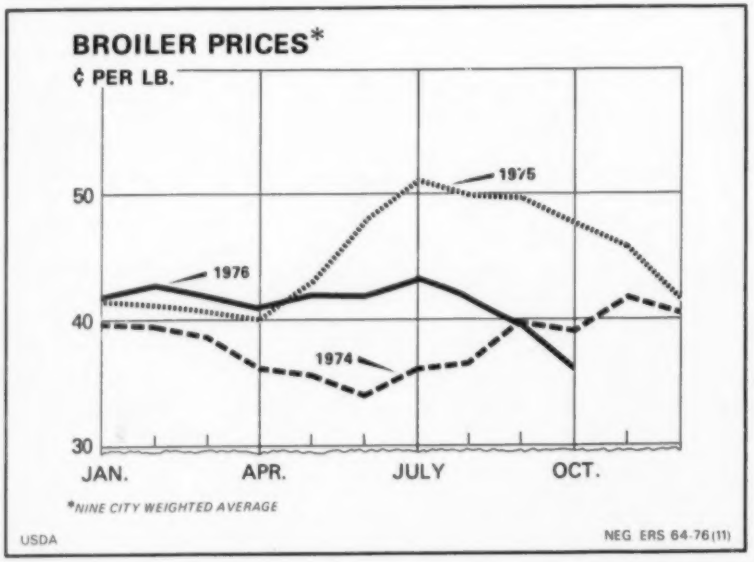
Table 8—Broiler: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1974-76

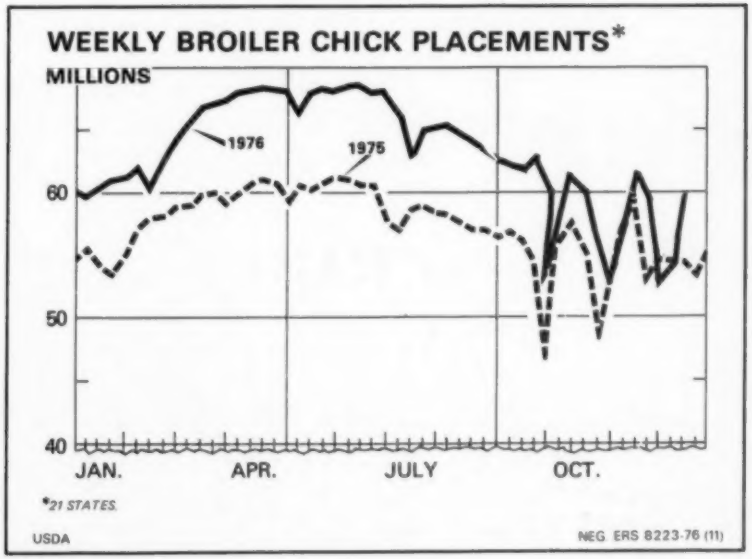
		Eggs set			Percent of previous year	Chicks placed			Percent of previous year
		1974	1975	1976	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976
		Thousand	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*
December[1]	6	67,519	65,349	67,850	104	58,826	54,797	59,324	108
	13	73,067	66,715	72,140	108	58,062	54,635	59,177	108
	20	73,524	66,565	72,641	109	58,683	54,499	58,969	108
	27	73,099	66,701	72,857	109	54,650	53,719	56,165	105
	3	73,609	65,629	73,272	112	59,653	55,349	59,000	107
January	10	74,225	64,498	73,609	114	59,375	54,933	59,946	109
	17	72,931	66,755	74,233	111	59,679	55,429	59,615	108
	24	71,875	68,543	74,761	109	59,851	54,259	60,394	111
	31	75,227	69,768	73,808	106	60,371	53,500	60,851	114
February	7	76,073	70,495	75,865	108	59,785	55,314	61,272	111
	14	77,347	71,371	78,086	109	58,824	57,256	61,968	108
	21	77,871	71,308	78,614	111	61,760	57,954	60,416	104
	28	77,847	72,652	80,357	111	62,475	58,015	62,792	108
March	6	76,807	72,080	80,822	112	63,459	58,821	64,561	110
	13	76,363	71,552	81,480	114	63,752	58,776	65,568	112
	20	77,430	72,818	81,844	112	63,778	59,796	66,689	112
	27	78,197	73,608	82,580	112	63,156	60,015	67,287	112
	3	77,019	73,775	82,941	112	62,386	59,312	67,393	114
April	10	77,565	72,297	82,685	114	62,919	59,955	67,992	113
	17	76,689	71,790	82,300	115	63,468	60,939	68,381	112
	24	77,473	73,242	81,625	111	63,259	61,058	68,351	112
	1	77,327	73,892	82,629	112	63,481	60,932	68,439	112
May	8	75,665	73,994	82,767	112	62,620	59,279	67,994	115
	15	76,378	74,033	82,449	111	62,944	60,504	66,709	110
	22	76,499	74,241	83,256	112	63,421	60,120	68,133	113
	29	75,166	74,554	83,420	112	61,810	60,828	68,355	112
June	5	74,426	74,177	82,920	112	62,096	61,374	68,156	111
	12	67,307	70,326	82,740	118	62,001	61,153	68,564	112
	19	67,271	70,140	80,602	115	60,433	60,623	68,745	113
	26	67,748	72,123	77,037	107	59,754	60,650	67,995	112
	3	67,355	72,110	79,821	111	53,911	57,886	68,176	118
July	10	66,700	71,983	79,996	111	53,813	57,244	66,102	115
	17	65,703	71,789	79,375	111	53,789	58,669	62,608	107
	24	65,229	70,325	78,723	112	53,903	58,985	65,212	111
	31	64,361	70,284	77,864	111	53,607	58,420	65,262	112
August	7	63,529	70,087	77,103	110	52,981	58,447	64,728	111
	14	62,824	68,960	76,515	111	52,641	57,723	63,953	111
	21	63,017	70,088	76,134	109	51,640	57,207	63,115	110
	28	61,194	69,445	76,950	111	51,417	57,136	62,387	109
September	4	56,226	66,559	73,127	110	51,427	56,445	62,296	110
	11	54,500	58,501	64,804	111	51,361	56,952	61,871	109
	18	61,831	68,763	70,957	113	49,116	56,339	63,063	112
	25	60,193	70,371	75,561	107	45,597	54,388	60,132	110
	2	56,331	67,393	72,697	108	43,450	46,845	52,738	113
October	9	51,818	59,532	65,086	109	50,040	56,278	57,717	103
	16	58,987	63,944	66,707	104	49,688	57,677	61,616	107
	23	63,252	69,922	73,307	105	45,597	55,207	59,764	108
	30	64,159	72,638	76,109	105	42,106	48,741	52,645	108
November	6	64,422	70,669	74,509	105	48,019	52,444	54,189	103
	13	66,265	72,536	75,597	104	52,079	57,244	59,946	105
	20	66,312	72,126			52,733	59,681		
	27	66,469	71,943			53,022	58,100		
		3,610,221	3,644,959			2,948,678	2,981,852		

[1] Preceding year.


BROILERS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
45
35
25
Broiler price*
Break-even cost △
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE. △ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ERS 2610-76 (11)


BRØILER SLAUGHTER *
MIL. LB.
725
625
525
1976
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ERS 1019-76 (11)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1975
1976
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-76 (11)


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
60
50
40
1976
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 STATES.
USDA
NEG. ERS 8223-76 (11)

Broiler Meat Exports Large

U.S. exports of young chicken meat (primarily broilers, whole and cut up) through September totaled a record 197 million pounds. This was 98 million pounds more than in the same months of 1975 and 53 million more than the previous record of 1962. Of the total, parts accounted for 65 percent, compared with 86 percent in the same period of 1975. The increase in the percent shipped as whole birds resulted from the large increase in whole birds going to Iraq.

Exports of young chicken likely will continue large in coming months. Some of the 35,000 metric tons of broilers sold to Iraq will be exported during the balance of 1976 and early 1977. Also, industry sources indicate that negotiations to sell additional quantities for export are continuing. Large broiler supplies and relatively low prices will be the incentive for the broiler industry to intensify efforts to further expand exports.

In addition to the large exports this year, 102 million pounds of young chicken were shipped to American territories. This was 9 percent more than shipments for January-September in this period of 1975.

USDA Purchases Continue

Purchases of young and chicken products by USDA for distribution in child nutrition and food programs for the elderly this year during August-November 23, totaled 18.1 million pounds of frozen cut up chicken, while 576,000 pounds of cooked frozen cut-up were delivered at a cost of $9 million. While the first purchases under the 1976 program were made in early August, an additional 23.3 million pounds were purchased by USDA during January-March 1976 under the 1975 program. Purchases during all of the 1975 calendar year totaled about 30 million pounds. Of this total, 26.5 million pounds were purchased during September-December.

Prospects for April-June 1977

Prospects for broiler producers next spring continue less favorable than a year ago. The cost of producing broilers probably will be near or above a year earlier, but prospects are for broiler market prices to be lower.

The cost of producing broilers during April-June next year likely will be near a year earlier largely as a result of expected higher soybean meal prices offsetting declines in corn prices. However, much will depend on how producers time their feed purchases. Feed grain prices likely will move upward after harvest is completed, with the gain by spring largely determined by developments in the demand for feed by the domestic livestock industry and for exports. The cost of most items other than feed used in production and marketing of broilers will continue their upward trend of this year.

Broiler prices next spring are expected to be above this fall, but will lag the April-June 1976. Consumer incomes probably will continue to increase and help bolster broiler prices. However, the price strengthening effects of increased incomes likely will be offset by changes in red meat supplies and prices. Total supplies of red meat may about match year-earlier levels but the mix and prices will change. Compared with a year earlier, beef supplies are expected to be down a little but pork output may climb by around a fifth. Prices of fat cattle are expected to strengthen some but prices of barrow and gilts may average around a fourth lower than April-June 1976.

If supplies of beef and pork and consumer incomes about develop as expected during April-June 1977, and broiler output is a little above 1976 levels, prices (9-city wholesale) would average between 4 to 6 cents per pound below the 42 cents last year (table 9). Past relationships indicate that if other factors remain unchaged, a 10 percent change in prduction from a year earlier would result in about an equal percentage change in broiler prices in the opposite direction.

Table 9—Estimated 2nd Quarter 1977 Broiler Price/ Consumption Relationships[1]

Domestic Civilian Per Capita Consumption		Estimated 9-City wholesale broiler price
Pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per pound
12.1	+15	31-33
11.6	+10	33-35
11.0	+5	35-37
10.5	0	[2] 37-39
10.0	-5	39-41
9.4	-10	41-43
8.9	-15	43-45

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] The estimated 37-39 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats and general economic activity and assumes no change from a year earlier in per capita consumption of broilers.

The prices other than the base 37-39 cents per pound price were estimated by assuming the same conditions for competing meats and economic activity as under the base but with various changes from a year earlier in the per capita consumption of broilers.

Record Broiler Consumption

Disappearance of broiler meat in 1976 has been well above 1975. Preliminary data indicate consumption of chicken meat during January-August increased nearly 2½ pounds over a year earlier to 29.3 pounds per person. Young chickens (primarily broilers) accounted for all of the increase as other

Table 10—Young chicken: Supply and utilization, Second quarter 1965-76

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Population	Per capita
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million*	*Pounds*
1965	1,515	29	1,544	26	26	21	1,470	191.2	7.7
1966	1,647	27	1,674	27	31	25	1,590	193.1	8.2
1967	1,735	55	1,790	49	37	30	1,675	194.9	8.5
1968	1,696	38	1,734	28	36	23	1,646	196.8	8.4
1969	1,848	26	1,874	23	46	17	1,788	198.8	9.0
1970	2,035	39	2,074	43	45	20	1,966	201.3	9.8
1971	1,958	44	2,002	39	50	18	1,895	203.9	9.3
1972	2,137	30	2,167	24	48	10	2,085	206.2	10.1
1973	2,048	21	2,069	20	50	9	1,990	207.9	9.6
1974	2,160	35	2,195	37	54	9	2,095	209.5	10.0
1975	2,092	28	2,120	23	64	9	2,024	211.2	9.6
1976	2,346	19	2,365	20	103	9	2,233	212.8	10.5

chicken was down about a third of a pound. Consumption of chicken meat for all of 1976 is likely to total a record 44 pounds per person (table 17). This compares with 40.3 pounds in 1975 and the record 42 pounds of 1972.

TURKEYS

Record Turkey Crop

Turkey production this year is also at record levels. The Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) has estimated the 1976 turkey crop at 138 million turkeys, 11 percent more than in 1975 and 4 percent more than the previous high in 1973 (table 18). This estimate is largely based on the number of turkeys hatched during the September 1975 through August 1976 period.

Turkey meat output in federally inspected plants through September totaled 1,286 million pounds (ready-to-cook weight), up 19 percent from 1975 and slightly above the January-September 1974 output. There were nearly 17 percent more turkeys marketed this year than last, at a 2 percent heavier average weight. Earlier poult production indicates that output will continue at record levels during the balance of 1976 and output this fall should be up 6 to 8 percent.

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	12.3	14.7	17.1	17.9	166.4	206.6
II	21.8	27.1	16.7	17.2	289.0	368.5
III	44.0	49.6	17.9	18.1	625.5	710.4
IV	41.4		19.4		635.2	
Annual	119.4		18.1		1,716.1	

Record turkey production, combined with large supplies of competing meats, has resulted in prices well below a year earlier. Producers have suffered in recent months because lower turkey prices have been accompanied by rising production costs. Estimated costs of production for turkeys implies that many producers lost several cents a pound on turkeys sold during August-October. Cost of production estimates vary depending on when the feed was purchased. Estimates of cost of production for turkey assumes that feed is purchased 3 months before the birds are marketed.

Turkey producers showed signs early this summer that they were adjusting to the unfavorable profit margins. Poult production in August fell 6 percent below 1975 levels—the first time since May 1975 that poult production was less than the same month a year earlier (table 11). Although profit margins probably have not improved in recent months, September's poult hatch was only 2 percent below 1975 and poult production in October was 9 percent above last year. Eggs in incubators on November 1 were up 4 percent. These figures indicate that first quarter 1977 turkey meat output may be about the same as a year earlier (table 12). However, using the poult hatch as a guide to future production can be misleading at times, particularly during the light production months early in the year.

Second quarter output will likely drop below a year earlier and this trend should continue through much of 1977. Turkey production in the second half of 1977 will depend on first half profits and prospects for feed ingredient prices, competing meats, and general economic conditions.

Storage Stocks Large

Although first half 1977 turkey meat production will likely be below 1976, the decline will be at least partially offset by the expected larger cold storage stocks at the start of 1977. Cold storage

Table 11—Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States reporting weekly, 1975-76

Month	United States				Period[2]	9-States[1]					
	Hatch		Change from year earlier			Hatch			Egg settings advanced 4 weeks		
	1975	1976	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month		1975	1976	Change from year earlier	1975	1976	Change from year earlier
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*		*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*
January	8,689	10,513	21	20	Jan. 4-Jan. 31	6,705	7,858	17	10,045	11,105	11
February	12,024	13,716	14	21	Feb. 1-Feb. 28	9,329	10,330	11	13,773	14,061	2
March	16,125	18,475	15	-1	Feb. 29-Arp. 3	14,250	16,756	18	20,812	23,580	13
April	18,617	19,748	6	4	Apr. 4-May 1	13,640	14,291	5	19,999	20,390	2
May	19,094	20,171	6	6	May 2-May 29	13,379	14,132	6	20,208	21,101	4
June	17,540	19,572	12	5	May 30-July 3	16,006	17,827	11	25,782	25,219	-2
July	14,258	15,354	8	5	July 4-July 31	10,054	10,653	6	16,699	17,333	4
August	8,648	8,131	-6	-8	Aug. 1-Aug. 28	6,633	6,192	-7	10,905	10,032	-8
September	4,337	4,252	-2	-2	Aug. 29-Oct. 2	4,314	4,365	1	6,901	6,777	-2
October	4,465	4,880	9	6	Oct. 3-Oct. 30	3,405	3,600	6	5,135	5,321	4
November	5,391			4	Nov. 1-Nov. 27				5,998	5,958	-1
December	7,888				Nov. 28-Jan. 1						

[1] California, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. [2] Weeks of 1976 and corresponding weeks of 1975.

Table 12—Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type, advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 1975-77

Month of marketing	Light breed advanced 4 months			Heavy breeds						All turkey: Sum of preceding columns*		
				Hens advanced 5 months			Toms advanced 6 months					
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977
	Million	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*
January	0.5	0.7	0.6	2.6	3.7	3.5	5.9	6.4	6.7	9.1	10.8	10.8
February	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.6	3.7	3.5	5.1	6.5	6.3
March	1.3	1.2		1.5	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.8	4.1	4.8	
April	1.3	1.5		1.8	2.1		1.5	1.7	1.9	4.6	5.3	
May	1.2	1.8		2.6	3.2		1.8	2.1		5.7	7.1	
June	1.4	1.4		3.7	4.4		2.6	3.2		7.7	9.0	
July	1.4	1.9		5.3	6.1		3.7	4.4		10.5	12.4	
August	1.7	2.0		7.4	8.3		5.3	6.1		14.3	16.4	
September	1.5	1.8		8.5	8.9		7.4	8.3		17.4	19.0	
October	1.4	1.8		8.8	9.2		8.5	8.9		18.7	19.9	
November	1.5	1.9		8.1	8.9		8.8	9.2		18.4	19.9	
December	1.3	1.2		6.4	6.7		8.1	8.9		15.8	16.8	

*Details may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

stocks, which were 195 million pounds at the beginning of this year, were 80 million below January 1, 1975. However, sharply higher production this year caused cold storage stocks to grow relative to a year ago. On November 1, stocks totaled 513 million pounds, 40 million above a year earlier (table 13). Stocks are expected to decline seasonally to 225 to 250 million pounds on December 31.

Prices Weak

Sharply larger turkey production and large supplies of competing meats have held turkey prices below year-earlier levels since last spring. New

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		New York wholesale			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per pound					
I	31.4	32.7	48.6	49.5	46.3	47.6
II	31.1	31.7	51.1	48.2	46.6	49.3
III	35.5	30.9	57.1	48.5	55.3	47.7
IV	36.4		56.0		56.3	
Annual	33.6		53.2		51.8	

York wholesale prices for 8 to 16-pound young hens in January-September averaged about 49 cents a pound, 3½ cents below the same months in 1975. Prices in October continued weak and averaged a little under 48 cents a pound, 10 cents below October 1975. Turkey prices will continue to be pressured by large supplies and weak prices for pork and broilers in coming months. Prices are expected to remain relatively weak during the balance of 1976 and during the first half of 1977, with prices falling to the mid-40-cents-a-pound range in early 1977.

Disappearance Large

Turkey meat use this year has been above last year. Consumption of turkey meat during the first 9 months of 1976 was around 7 percent larger than the 4.5 pounds per person for the same months of 1975. Total consumption for all of 1976 is expected to total near 1972's record of 9 pounds per person. This would compare with 8.6 pounds in 1975 (table 17).

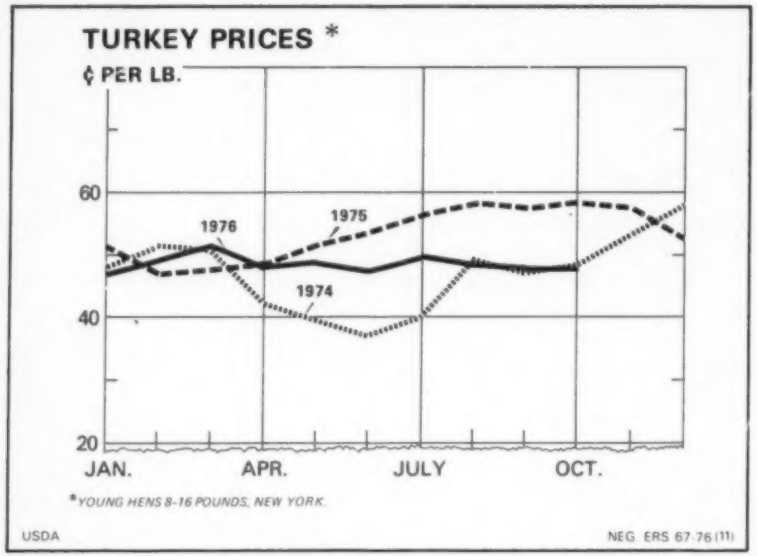
Movement of turkey meat into export channels has increased in 1976. Through the first 9 months of this year, exports of turkey meat totaled 46 million pounds, 54 percent above January-September 1975. With larger supplies available at lower prices than a year ago, exports likely will continue large.

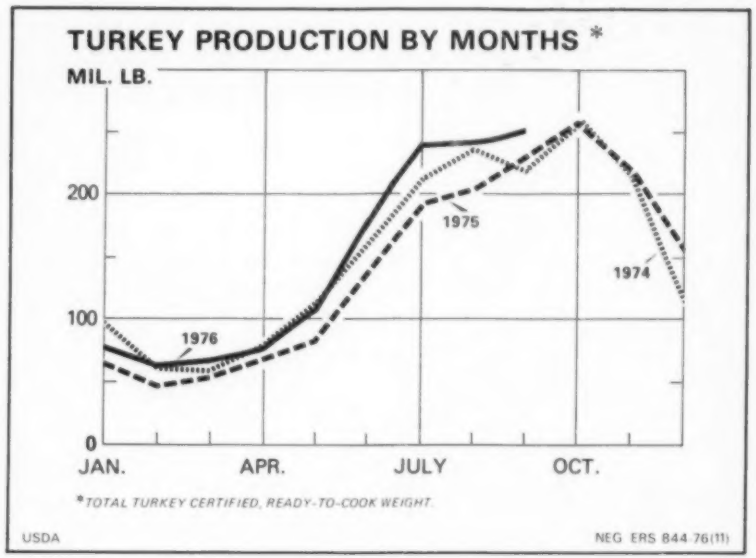
Large quantities of turkeys have been purchased by USDA this year to be used in child nutrition (primarily school lunches), elderly, and other domestic food programs. Purchases during August-November totaled 37.3 million pounds of ready-to-cook young turkey and 14.8 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls. This is the equivalent of nearly 60.9 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass weight. In addition, USDA has purchased 3.0 million pounds of canned bond turkey, the equivalent of 4.9 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass turkey. USDA announced on November 3 that there will be no more purchases of ready-to-cook young turkey this year, since present distribution requirements have been completed. However, purchases of turkey rolls and canned boned turkey will continue until further notice. During 1975, turkey purchases by USDA were small and totaled only 22 million pounds for the entire year.

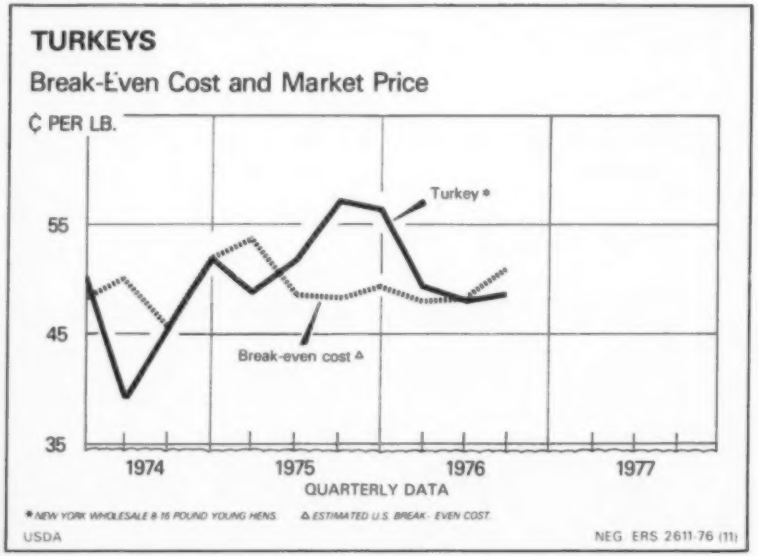
Table 13—Cold storage holdings of high protein foods

Item	Unit	November 1, 1974	November 1, 1975	October 1, 1976	November 1, 1976
		Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
Total eggs[1]	Case				
Shell	do.	1,711	1,235	772	766
Frozen	Pound	73	55	46	29
		64,719	46,628	28,680	29,098
Total poultry	do.	743,851	599,796	609,402	667,567
Total chicken	do.	181,141	121,339	143,946	147,081
Broilers, fryers and roasters	do.	36,326	21,877	24,301	23,827
Hens	do.	59,982	44,732	37,895	40,529
Other frozen chicken	do.	84,833	54,730	81,750	82,725
Total turkey	do.	554,637	472,414	457,682	512,717
Whole	do.	479,821	421,759	393,230	442,560
Other	do.	74,816	50,655	64,452	70,157
Ducks	do.	8,073	6,043	7,774	7,769
All red meats[2]	do.	715,428	571,349	662,510	707,514
Beef	do.	350,350	272,430	393,591	416,265
Frozen pork	do.	256,266	206,677	175,459	196,664
Pork in cooler	do.	14,066	15,220	13,826	14,335
Total cheese	do.	512,058	388,278	522,495	505,678

[1] Frozen eggs converted on the basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products.


TURKEY PRICES *
¢ PER LB.
60
40
20
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK.
USDA
NEG. ERS 67-76 (11)


TURKEY PRODUCTION BY MONTHS *
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*TOTAL TURKEY CERTIFIED, READY-TO-COOK WEIGHT.
USDA
NEG. ERS 844-76 (11)


TURKEYS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
55
45
35
Turkey *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NEW YORK WHOLESALE 8-16 POUND YOUNG HENS. Δ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ERS 2611-76 (11)

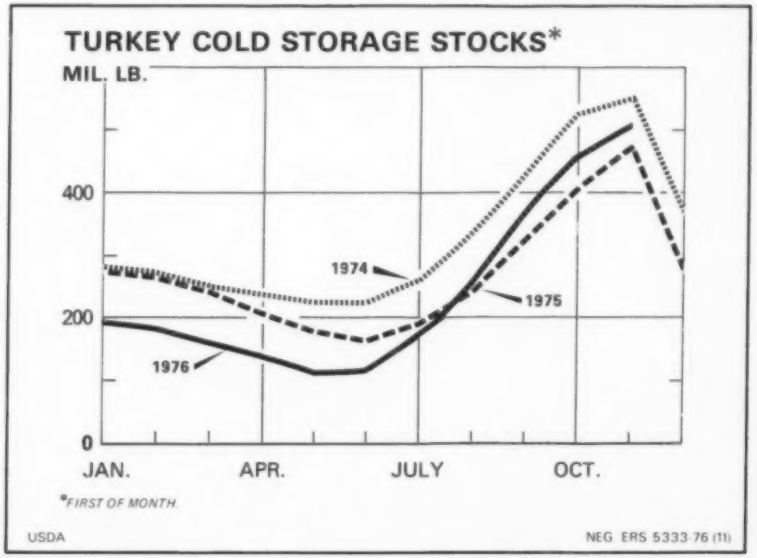

TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1974
1975
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA
NEG. ERS 5333-76 (11)

Table 14—Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[2]	
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1974					
I	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
II	27.5	41.9	59.9	52.1	-7.8
III	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
IV	34.1	48.5	66.6	67.8	1.2
1975					
I	30.8	45.3	63.6	65.0	1.3
II	28.3	42.8	61.1	55.3	-5.7
III	29.3	43.8	62.1	61.9	-0.2
IV	27.8	42.3	60.6	69.1	8.5
1976[4]					
I	26.9	41.4	59.9	67.7	7.9
II	27.9	42.4	60.9	62.5	1.7
III	31.4	45.9	64.4	71.2	6.8

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 15—Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1974					
I	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
II	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
III	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.6	-0.7
IV	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.4	-2.3
1975					
I	16.4	22.6	41.3	41.2	0.0
II	14.5	20.7	38.7	43.7	5.0
III	14.6	20.8	38.7	50.3	11.6
IV	15.0	21.2	39.3	45.1	5.8
1976[4]					
I	13.7	20.0	38.0	42.1	4.2
II	14.1	20.4	38.5	41.7	3.2
III	16.5	22.8	41.8	41.5	-0.3

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 16--Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	New York young hen price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
Annual average[2]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.5
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1974					
I	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
II	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
III	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
IV	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
1975					
I	25.6	34.2	53.8	48.9	-4.9
II	21.6	30.2	48.7	51.7	3.0
III	21.3	29.9	48.4	57.1	8.7
IV	22.2	30.8	49.5	56.5	7.0
1976[4]					
I	20.2	29.2	48.0	49.4	1.4
II	20.5	29.5	48.4	48.1	-0.4
III	22.6	31.6	51.0	48.5	-2.5

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 17—Factors influencing and indicative of the demand for eggs and poultry, 1965-76[1]

Year	Total population July 1[2]	Average number of people employed	Per capita dispcsable income	BLS consumer price index (1967=100)	Civilian per capita disappearance				Prices received by farmers			BLS retail price		
					Eggs	Ready-to-cook basis			Eggs per dozen	Non-broilers per pound	Turkeys per pound	Grade A large eggs per dozen	Broilers and fryers per pound	Turkeys per pound
						Chicken		Turkey						
						Broilers	Other							
	Million	*Million*	*Dollars*		*Number*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*
1965	194.2	71.1	2,436	94.5	314	29.6	3.8	7.4	33.7	8.9	22.2	52.7	39.0	48.4
1966	196.5	72.9	2,604	97.2	313	32.0	3.6	7.8	39.1	9.7	23.1	59.9	41.3	50.6
1967	198.6	74.4	2,749	100.0	320	32.4	4.1	8.6	31.3	7.9	19.6	49.6	38.1	48.8
1968	200.6	75.9	2,945	104.2	316	32.8	3.9	7.9	34.0	8.2	20.5	52.9	39.8	46.4
1969	202.6	77.9	3,130	109.8	310	34.8	3.6	8.3	40.0	9.7	22.4	62.1	42.2	48.8
1970	204.8	78.6	3,376	116.3	311	36.9	3.6	8.0	37.7	8.8	22.6	61.4	40.8	55.9
1971	207.0	79.1	3,605	121.3	314	36.7	3.7	8.4	31.1	7.8	22.1	52.9	41.0	54.6
1972	208.8	81.7	3,843	125.3	308	38.4	3.6	9.0	31.7	9.1	22.2	52.4	41.4	55.3
1973	210.4	84.4	4,295	133.1	294	37.4	3.3	8.5	54.1	16.1	38.2	78.1	59.6	73.5
1974	211.9	85.9	4,623	147.7	288	37.5	3.6	8.9	53.0	9.4	28.0	78.3	56.0	72.7
1975[4]	213.5	84.8	5,005	161.2	278	36.9	3.4	8.6	52.8	10.5	34.8	77.0	63.3	72.6
1976[5]	215.1	87.6	5,493	170.6	275	40.9	3.0	9.0	59.2	---	31.5	84.2	59.7	74.0

[1] Includes available data for Alaska and Hawaii beginning in 1961. [2] Includes armed forces overseas. [3] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Series began in 1964. [4] Preliminary. [5] Forecast.

Table 18—Turkey: Number raised on farms, 1975-76[1]

State	Heavy breeds[4]			Light breeds[5]			Total all breeds		
	1975	1976	1976 as % of 1975	1975	1976	1976 as % of 1975	1975	1976	1976 as % of 1975
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
Arkansas[2]							7,100	7,625	107
California	15,017	16,698	111	754	1,282	170	15,771	17,980	114
Colorado[2]							3,620	3,825	106
Connecticut	32	33	103	4	3	75	36	36	100
Georgia	1,216	1,880	155	0	10		1,216	1,890	155
Illinois	445	366	82	0	7		445	373	84
Indiana	4,350	4,650	107	785	525	67	5,135	5,175	101
Iowa	6,238	6,657	107	22	30	136	6,260	6,687	107
Kansas	152	96	63	2	0		154	96	62
Louisiana	2	2	100	0	0		2	2	100
Maine	3	2	67	3	2	67	6	4	67
Maryland	38	40	105	1	7		39	47	121
Massachusetts	106	122	115	19	21	111	125	143	114
Michigan[3]							700	1,170	167
Minnesota	15,549	16,110	104	7,203	8,140	113	22,752	24,250	107
Missouri[2]							8,125	9,690	119
Nebraska	487	442	91	0	0		487	442	91
New Hampshire	18	19	106	3	7		21	26	124
New Jersey	63	63	100	11	5	45	74	68	92
New York[2]							145	142	98
North Carolina[2]							14,400	17,700	123
North Dakota	821	627	76	90	373		911	1,000	110
Ohio[3]							2,835	2,590	91
Oklahoma[2]							1,370	2,019	147
Oregon[3]							1,025	1,300	127
Pennsylvania	2,313	2,774	120	525	569	108	2,838	3,343	118
Rhode Island	9	9	100	0	0		9	9	100
South Carolina	2,235	1,908	85	350	532	152	2,585	2,440	94
South Dakota	510	612	120	350	364	104	860	976	113
Tennessee	4	4	100	0	0		4	4	100
Texas	8,700	9,300	107	145	0		8,845	9,300	105
Utah	3,369	3,439	102	77	24	31	3,446	3,463	100
Vermont	7	7	100	0	0		7	7	100
Virginia[3]							5,972	6,813	114
West Virginia	500	718	144	1,030	1,030	100	1,530	1,748	114
Wisconsin	4,886	5,077	104	8	9	113	4,894	5,086	104
Other States[3]	485	405	84	26	59		511	464	91
U.S.	109,301	120,152	110	14,954	17,781	119	124,255	137,933	111

[1] Based on turkeys hatched September 1, 1975 through August 31, 1976. Excludes young turkeys lost. [2] Breakdown by breeds not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. [3] Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Washington and Wyoming combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4] Normal nature marketing weight 12 pounds or over. [5] Normal mature marketing weight under 12 pounds.

Table 19—Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chickens, for selected cities and 10-city average

Item	Grade A large eggs			U.S. grade A fryers		
	July 1976	August 1976	September 1976	July 1976	August 1976	September 1976
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
10-city Average prices						
Farm price	50.4	57.8	59.8	34.9	32.8	30.8
Price to retailer	67.7	73.8	76.5	49.9	46.1	45.2
Retail price	79.7	85.9	90.1	64.2	63.1	61.3
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	29.3	28.1	30.3	29.3	30.3	30.5
Farm to retailer	17.3	16.0	16.7	15.0	13.3	14.4
Retail	12.0	12.1	13.6	14.3	17.0	16.1
New York prices						
Farm price	49.1	57.7	59.4	35.5	32.9	31.4
Price to retailer	64.3	73.3	74.5	47.5	45.5	43.0
Retail price	85.5	92.6	96.8	68.9	68.6	64.1
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	36.4	34.9	37.4	33.4	35.7	32.7
Farm to retailer	15.2	15.6	15.1	12.0	12.6	11.6
Retail	21.2	19.3	22.3	21.4	23.1	21.1
Boston prices						
Farm price	50.3	56.5	69.3	35.8	33.2	31.9
Price to retailer	64.5	70.5	86.5	48.7	47.5	43.0
Retail price	86.7	92.8	105.8	69.6	69.2	68.2
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	36.4	36.3	36.5	33.8	36.0	36.3
Farm to retailer	14.2	14.0	17.2	12.9	14.3	11.1
Retail	22.2	22.3	19.3	20.9	21.7	25.2
Chicago prices						
Farm price	47.7	56.5	57.4	34.3	31.8	29.4
Price to retailer	64.5	72.5	73.0	48.0	44.0	43.3
Retail price	82.5	83.9	88.4	62.7	59.5	58.1
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	34.8	27.4	31.0	28.4	27.7	28.7
Farm to retailer	16.8	16.0	15.6	13.7	12.2	13.9
Retail	18.0	11.4	15.4	14.7	15.5	14.8
St. Louis prices						
Farm price	52.2	61.2	62.2	34.5	32.0	29.6
Price to retailer	67.0	72.0	73.0	53.3	43.5	43.5
Retail price	76.7	82.4	85.3	66.7	65.9	59.5
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	24.5	21.2	23.1	32.2	33.9	29.9
Farm to retailer	14.8	10.8	10.8	18.8	11.5	13.9
Retail	9.7	10.4	12.3	13.4	22.4	16.0
San Fransico prices						
Farm price				35.9	34.1	32.5
Price to retailer				55.5	53.5	52.0
Retail price				68.8	64.0	62.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer				32.9	29.9	30.2
Farm to retailer				19.6	19.4	19.5
Retail				13.3	10.5	10.7
Atlanta prices						
Farm price	48.0	57.0	58.0	33.9	31.6	29.1
Price to retailer	64.3	68.5	70.7	46.0	43.0	41.5
Retail price	78.5	79.1	87.4	61.5	59.3	56.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	30.5	22.1	29.4	27.6	27.7	27.6
Price to retailer	16.3	11.5	12.7	12.1	11.4	12.4
Retail	14.2	10.6	16.7	15.5	16.3	15.2

Table 20—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1, 5-6.—Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1974	Mil.	296	296	294	290	285	281	280	278	279	281	284	285	286
1975	Mil.	285	282	280	276	272	271	270	271	274	277	279	280	276
1976	Mil.	280	280	277	273	270	269	268	270	274	276			
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1974	No.	1,920	1,759	1,977	1,932	2,007	1,938	1,975	1,955	1,879	1,930	1,870	1,937	231
1975	No.	1,953	1,771	1,972	1,922	1,991	1,933	1,995	1,991	1,914	1,986	1,904	1,968	233
1976	No.	1,970	1,955	2,004	1,955	2,020	1,980	2,014	1,990	1,911	1,965			
Total monthly egg production														
1974	Mil. cs.	15.8	14.5	16.1	15.5	15.9	15.1	15.3	15.1	14.5	15.1	14.7	15.4	183.1
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4	13.9	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.6	15.1	14.8	15.3	178.7
1976	Mil. cs.	15.3	14.4	15.4	14.8	15.1	14.6	15.0	14.9	14.5	15.1			
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1974	Mil.	297	296	296	292	287	283	280	279	278	280	282	285	
1975	Mil.	286	284	281	278	274	271	270	270	273	276	278	280	
1976	Mil.	279	280	279	275	270	270	268	268	272	275	277		
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1974	No.	61.6	62.3	63.4	64.1	64.7	64.8	64.3	63.1	63.0	62.2	62.3	62.3	
1975	No.	62.6	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.5	64.1	64.3	63.3	63.3	63.6	
1976	No.	63.4	63.8	64.2	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.5	64.4	63.9	63.5	63.3		
Daily rate of egg production														
1974	Mil.	183	184	187	187	186	183	180	176	175	174	176	178	
1975	Mil.	179	179	178	178	175	174	174	173	175	175	176	178	
1976	Mil.	177	179	179	179	176	176	175	173	174	174	175		
Tables 7-9.—Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1974	1,000 cs.	15,808	14,453	16,139	15,544	15,883	15,150	15,333	15,117	14,547	15,061	14,736	15,358	183,129
1975	1,000 cs.	15,444	13,892	15,317	14,725	15,069	14,528	14,964	15,006	14,589	15,133	14,758	15,300	178,725
1976	1,000 cs.	15,328	14,419	15,447	14,814	15,144	14,622	14,989	14,939	14,525	15,067			
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	-11	19	17	7	20	3	6	-17	-8	3	-21	-16	2
1975	1,000 cs.	-4	16	-16	-6	42	14	2	-4	-8	-17	-15	-18	-14
1976	1,000 cs.	-9	8	5	0	-4	3	33	8	-20	-17			
Eggs broken commercially														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,435	1,502	1,821	1,862	2,146	2,109	2,071	1,934	1,642	1,749	1,462	1,242	20,975
1975	1,000 cs.	1,441	1,218	1,215	1,455	1,651	1,698	1,957	1,738	1,698	1,702	1,234	1,229	18,436
1976	1,000 cs.	1,257	1,252	1,722	1,690	1,571	1,866	1,752	1,753	1,781				
Eggs used for hatching														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,001	1,175	1,178	1,199	1,095	987	957	857	866	896	976	989	12,186
1975	1,000 cs.	933	1,096	1,093	1,128	1,069	1,046	1,027	953	965	959	1,025	1,063	12,357
1976	1,000 cs.	1,040	1,213	1,221	1,244	1,184	1,153	1,125	1,041	1,029				
Balance														
1974	1,000 cs.	13,383	11,757	13,123	12,476	12,622	12,051	12,299	12,333	12,047	12,413	12,319	13,143	149,966
1975	1,000 cs.	13,074	11,562	13,025	12,148	12,307	11,570	11,978	12,319	11,934	12,489	12,514	13,026	147,946
1976	1,000 cs.	13,040	11,946	12,499	11,880	12,393	11,600	12,079	12,137	11,735				
Tables 13-14.—Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1974	Mil. lb.	933	766	806	832	944	920	1,002	1,023	898	1,015	800	768	10,707
1975	Mil. lb.	781	676	736	825	831	884	967	942	978	1,067	834	914	10,434
1976	Mil. lb.	857	758	912	897	910	1,077	1,045	1,115	1,125				
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1974	Mil. lb.	3,255	2,661	3,098	3,149	3,266	2,945	3,026	3,132	3,074	3,471	3,155	3,088	37,323
1975	Mil. lb.	3,315	2,880	2,959	3,089	2,873	2,832	2,842	2,860	3,088	3,339	2,978	3,159	36,214
1976	Mil. lb.	3,266	2,907	3,513	3,111	2,924	3,150	3,048	3,350	3,467				
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1974	Mil. lb.	713.1	601.2	641.9	672.4	745.0	687.2	720.1	713.8	621.1	686.9	524.5	589.8	7,917
1975	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	690.1	683.1	714.2	680.5	684.9	739.8	560.7	691.4	7,966
1976	Mil. lb.	712.3	632.3	771.9	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	805.2	800.3				
Mature														
1974	Mil. lb.	49.2	44.6	51.0	50.8	53.0	45.7	40.6	45.1	35.2	41.6	40.1	38.1	535
1975	Mil. lb.	47.8	39.1	43.6	44.6	37.0	39.0	34.5	34.0	38.7	42.2	31.7	40.5	473
1976	Mil. lb.	44.1	42.2	46.4	48.9	34.4	41.1	38.6	38.0	42.6				

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1974	Mil. lb.	762.3	645.8	692.9	723.3	798.0	732.9	760.7	758.9	656.2	728.6	564.6	627.7	8,452
1975	Mil. lb.	694.0	609.4	660.2	732.9	727.0	722.1	748.7	714.6	723.5	782.0	592.4	732.0	8,439
1976	Mil. lb.	756.4	674.4	818.3	791.4	779.8	867.0	804.7	843.2	842.9				
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1974	Mil. lb.	8.9	9.1	8.9	8.3	10.6	11.1	10.0	9.7	5.9	8.0	5.4	3.9	100
1975	Mil. lb.	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.2	8.3	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.0	89
1976	Mil. lb.	6.5	6.4	8.1	6.9	7.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	9.2				
Young turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	87.3	49.4	48.6	69.0	100.6	144.9	199.2	225.8	213.3	252.4	209.7	115.8	1,716
1975	Mil. lb.	56.8	39.9	45.8	60.5	73.6	128.3	181.3	194.7	221.1	248.3	211.9	150.1	1,612
1976	Mil. lb.	68.9	54.5	58.8	72.1	98.3	170.0	200.3	233.1	243.3				
Old turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.8	2.1	3.8	3.8	1.7	.9	.6	.1	.3	20
1975	Mil. lb.	1.1	.3	1.2	.6	1.5	2.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	.4	.1	.3	15
1976	Mil. lb.	.8	.8	1.8	.9	.7	3.1	4.1	2.4	1.3				
Total turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	97.3	59.8	58.9	80.1	113.2	159.7	213.1	237.2s	220.2	261.1	215.2	119.9	1,836
1975	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	81.9	138.4	193.2	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	157.5	1,716
1976	Mil. lb.	76.3	61.7	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	243.8	252.8				
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Ducks														
1974	Mil. lb.	3.0	2.3	2.5	4.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.1	3.5	3.2	51
1975	Mil. lb.	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.9	50
1976	Mil. lb.	3.2	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.2	6.4	5.9	6.0	5.9				
Total poultry														
1974	Mil. lb.	862.8	708.0	754.4	807.8	916.9	898.5	979.8	1,001.8	881.6	996.1	785.1	751.2	10,344
1975	Mil. lb.	761.6	658.7	717.6	806.5	814.1	866.5	947.5	922.7	957.5	1,045.6	817.7	893.5	10,210
1976	Mil. lb.	836.0	739.0	890.4	876.1	891.7	1,055.8	1,024.7	1,093.2	1,101.9				
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected for further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Chicken														
Young														
1974	Mil. lb.	45.1	41.7	46.8	45.8	44.0	38.3	36.3	40.7	39.3	41.9	42.7	33.3	496
1975	Mil. lb.	39.6	35.6	38.4	41.9	40.9	47.3	48.2	48.0	50.3	55.3	45.4	49.7	541
1976	Mil. lb.	51.8	47.5	55.6	53.6	52.2	61.0	54.4	56.3	54.0				
Mature														
1974	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	40.6	38.5	35.8	27.2	24.7	34.5	34.0	40.7	33.1	28.0	423
1975	Mil. lb.	31.2	24.4	25.6	29.1	21.8	28.3	25.5	27.7	31.9	38.3	34.1	38.2	356
1976	Mil. lb.	43.2	39.6	44.7	40.0	36.8	32.3	26.9	35.5	32.3				
Total														
1974	Mil. lb.	90.9	82.1	87.4	84.3	79.7	65.5	61.1	75.1	73.3	82.5	75.8	61.3	919
1975	Mil. lb.	70.8	60.0	64.0	71.0	62.7	75.6	73.8	75.7	82.2	93.7	79.6	87.9	897
1976	Mil. lb.	95.0	87.1	100.3	93.6	89.0	93.3	81.3	91.8	86.3				
Turkey														
1974	Mil. lb.	54.9	41.2	44.6	47.9	60.5	72.4	90.8	110.0	101.4	117.6	88.1	66.9	896
1975	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	44.7	49.1	45.3	69.1	99.1	107.4	111.8	129.1	98.9	67.2	908
1976	Mil. lb.	47.9	44.4	54.5	49.1	69.0	97.9	113.6	124.9	132.1				
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1974	No.	22.8	19.9	22.3	21.0	21.3	20.4	20.8	21.0	20.4	21.0	20.7	22.2	254
1975	do.	22.0	19.4	21.9	20.4	20.6	19.2	20.1	20.6	19.8	20.8	20.8	21.6	247
1976	do.	21.8	19.7	20.6	19.7	20.5	19.2	20.0	20.1	19.4				
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1974	Cents	66.6	63.9	56.7	50.1	42.2	39.8	43.8	47.8	54.8	54.9	55.4	59.5	53.0
1975	do.	57.2	54.1	54.1	47.4	47.1	45.6	46.5	50.8	55.8	52.9	58.2	64.1	52.8
1976	do.	62.2	59.8	54.1	53.4	55.5	53.8	55.5	60.6	62.1	60.8			
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4 5]														
1974	do.	93.0	94.5	85.6	78.1	64.9	62.5	62.3	71.1	79.0	83.9	81.0	84.1	78.3
1975	do.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	70.6	66.9	70.6	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	86.1	77.0
1976	do.	89.1	90.1	78.2	77.6	75.2	74.4	80.0	85.7	89.0	87.6			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1974	Cents	63.16	58.33	50.90	42.52	31.57	31.08	36.27	42.45	49.58	49.81	49.85	54.69	46.68
1975	do.	50.25	43.34	45.26	36.09	36.06	36.90	39.27	44.64	49.43	45.12	51.05	58.52	44.73
1976	do.	56.21	50.26	44.91	44.20	45.80	45.64	50.31	56.50	56.50	55.68			
Medium														
1974	do.	57.99	51.32	43.98	33.12	22.59	20.61	27.86	33.59	43.82	45.14	43.38	49.05	39.37
1975	do.	44.32	37.21	37.38	30.48	26.26	25.90	27.89	34.02	39.31	38.55	42.95	53.25	36.46
1976	do.	48.93	43.63	34.78	35.43	39.42	37.52	40.57	45.84	47.71	46.53			
Price to volume buyers[6]														
14 Metro areas:														
Large														
1974	do.	77.46	72.17	64.46	58.27	49.52	48.72	53.89	60.54	67.23	66.01	65.70	71.42	62.85
1975	do.	67.82	62.49	64.24	55.78	55.37	54.88	56.76	62.28	66.85	62.37	69.08	75.81	62.81
1976	do.	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05	63.27	62.30	67.38	72.22	73.52	71.44			
Los Angeles, Grade AA:														
Large														
1974	do.	75.73	71.34	61.24	56.21	54.50	51.60	55.86	60.55	67.60	64.12	64.30	70.07	62.76
1975	do.	68.32	68.71	68.55	58.74	60.26	58.50	55.73	61.64	66.78	63.74	70.00	75.48	64.70
1976	do.	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36	65.75	66.04	69.86	75.00	74.57	68.97			
Medium														
1974	do.	73.73	67.08	57.19	52.50	45.77	44.50	47.59	52.77	62.15	60.26	63.20	69.07	57.98
1975	do.	67.32	67.71	65.67	53.85	54.55	50.50	49.27	52.74	59.78	60.93	69.00	74.48	60.48
1976	do.	74.33	66.56	62.92	62.91	62.50	60.86	59.71	66.23	69.57	63.39			
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1974	do.	74.00	68.29	60.20	52.08	42.71	42.83	48.96	55.84	63.07	61.69	61.21	67.26	58.18
1975	do.	62.18	55.44	59.24	50.17	49.26	50.55	52.59	58.21	61.56	56.65	65.67	71.85	57.78
1976	do.	68.44	60.55	56.78	56.44	58.38	58.83	63.06	68.56	69.19	67.50			
Medium														
1974	do.	72.00	62.42	55.67	44.03	34.27	32.33	41.57	47.84	58.09	58.40	56.89	64.42	52.33
1975	do.	57.75	50.58	53.24	46.18	40.76	41.43	42.58	48.28	53.07	53.61	59.42	70.50	51.45
1976	do.	64.22	57.94	49.56	49.50	53.88	50.94	55.39	60.83	60.33	61.87			
Midwest, paid delivered[7]														
Large														
1974	do.	76.50	71.25	63.50	56.25	47.00	47.00	51.12	58.10	66.00	65.20	64.13	70.63	61.39
1975	do.	66.20	59.62	61.38	53.25	53.20	52.75	55.20	60.50	65.25	60.90	67.75	74.50	60.88
1976	do.	72.75	66.25	60.75	59.85	62.31	61.12	65.85	71.44	72.12	70.20			
Medium														
1974	do.	74.10	64.38	58.00	48.25	38.60	36.50	43.12	48.70	60.50	62.30	60.25	67.25	55.16
1975	do.	62.00	54.88	55.50	49.50	45.20	44.25	45.60	50.50	56.38	56.60	61.00	72.50	54.49
1976	do.	68.30	62.62	53.00	52.60	56.88	53.94	56.65	62.25	63.75	63.20			
Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products														
New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1974	Cents	47.38	50.34	46.08	35.94	33.83	32.23	33.72	39.39	43.53	39.74	36.78	37.64	39.72
1975	do.	36.06	33.81	32.48	32.72	37.94	37.59	38.38	39.80	42.31	41.30	42.16	41.79	38.04
1976	do.	41.54	42.75	42.36	40.59	41.65	42.78	43.94	47.23	52.69	51.87			
White														
1974	do.	16.41	17.75	16.50	15.86	15.89	16.44	16.41	19.44	22.72	20.47	17.94	18.22	17.84
1975	do.	17.57	16.97	16.41	16.38	18.75	20.44	21.38	22.27	23.11	22.69	22.94	22.92	20.15
1976	do.	22.39	22.59	22.64	22.15	23.98	25.35	26.53	28.64	31.92	32.33			
Yolks, light colored, sugared, 43 percent solids														
1974	do.	87.28	89.72	85.13	68.89	60.22	60.39	64.16	72.89	78.94	77.03	73.90	72.61	74.26
1975	do.	69.39	64.69	60.69	57.69	60.58	61.75	62.69	64.72	67.69	67.42	67.94	68.11	64.45
1976	do.	67.50	67.78	67.34	66.35	66.33	67.30	69.11	75.28	83.49	83.60			
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound														
Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1974	Cents	21.5	23.4	22.2	21.0	20.5	19.0	20.5	20.9	22.8	22.8	24.2	22.6	21.8
1975	do.	23.8	24.3	23.5	23.2	24.6	27.6	29.7	29.1	29.6	28.5	27.0	24.0	26.2
1976	do.	24.3	25.2	24.4	23.7	24.7	24.3	25.4	24.3	23.1	20.9			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[2]														
9-City average[3]														
1974	Cents	39.69	39.41	38.76	36.30	35.64	34.05	36.41	36.84	39.89	39.32	41.94	40.71	38.25
1975	do.	41.64	41.37	40.72	40.06	42.88	48.05	51.20	49.96	49.66	47.73	45.82	41.79	45.07
1976	do.	41.89	42.68	41.93	41.00	42.07	42.11	43.16	41.61	39.72	36.45			
Chicago														
1974	do.	39.3	39.8	38.5	36.4	35.5	33.8	36.3	36.7	39.8	39.0	41.8	40.2	38.1
1975	do.	42.8	40.9	40.2	39.8	42.3	46.9	50.9	49.6	49.6	47.2	45.6	41.7	44.8
1976	do.	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9	42.0	41.7	43.3	41.4	39.8	36.2			
New York														
1974	do.	38.5	38.5	37.6	33.6	34.8	33.9	35.7	36.2	39.5	39.3	41.4	39.8	37.4
1975	do.	41.6	41.3	40.3	39.7	42.0	47.2	51.4	49.6	49.7	47.6	45.2	40.6	44.7
1976	do.	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8	41.8	41.6	42.8	41.4	39.6	36.0			
Los Angeles														
1974	do.	41.2	41.5	40.5	38.1	36.6	34.8	38.0	38.1	40.8	40.2	42.8	41.0	39.5
1975	do.	43.4	42.5	42.0	42.0	44.2	48.0	52.2	51.0	50.9	48.9	47.2	43.3	46.3
1976	do.	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2	43.0	42.6	44.4	43.0	40.9	38.0			
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	59.2	58.7	57.5	55.6	52.2	51.2	51.8	53.5	57.0	56.2	58.2	60.4	56.0
1975	do.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	57.9	61.5	66.3	66.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	65.5	63.3
1976	do.	63.6	61.4	60.8	60.7	59.4	62.0	62.6	60.7	59.4	56.7			
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	100.1	100.4	99.9	98.0	95.8	94.4	94.6	97.3	99.3	99.0	100.5	102.5	98.5
1975	do.	102.3	103.4	102.9	101.3	103.0	107.2	116.7	117.1	118.0	116.1	115.8	115.3	109.9
1976	do.	112.3	111.8	109.3	109.6	110.0	111.8	113.7	111.9	110.4	107.0			
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1974	Cents	34.8	32.6	32.3	27.7	24.6	23.6	23.0	27.1	27.3	28.0	30.8	33.4	28.8
1975	do.	32.4	31.2	30.7	29.4	31.1	32.7	34.4	35.7	36.3	36.4	36.7	36.2	33.6
1976	do.	33.6	32.1	32.5	31.6	32.0	31.4	31.2	30.9	30.5	30.7			
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	85.4	80.4	79.6	75.8	70.5	68.1	65.9	66.0	69.8	71.2	71.0	68.9	72.7
1975	do.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	69.1	70.9	71.4	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	75.8	72.6
1976	do.	76.6	75.0	73.5	74.4	74.1	74.7	73.9	74.4	72.9	72.8			
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1974	do.	48.6	51.3	50.7	42.2	39.7	37.4	39.7	49.6	47.0	48.2	53.6	57.9	47.2
1975	do.	51.6	46.9	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.4	56.0	58.0	57.2	58.1	57.3	52.6	53.2
1976	do.	47.1	49.7	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1	48.0	47.8			
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1974	do.	48.2	48.2	46.7	39.4	38.4	34.5	37.0	43.1	42.6	45.7	50.6	52.8	43.9
1975	do.	49.1	46.0	43.7	43.3	46.9	49.6	52.7	56.2	57.0	57.2	56.7	54.4	51.8
1976	do.	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4	50.8	47.8	48.5	47.9	46.8	46.9			
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1974	do.	58.6	55.4	55.7	47.5	44.1	41.3	41.5	52.7	52.1	52.3	57.2	61.9	51.7
1975	do.	57.5	50.2	57.2	52.3	55.3	57.0	59.3	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	57.9	57.0
1976	do.	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8	52.9	51.4	52.2	52.0	51.6	51.2			
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1974	do.	60.7	54.2	51.9	45.3	48.4	52.5	52.6	55.8	55.7	54.4	56.3	58.8	53.9
1975	do.	59.0	56.7	55.0	52.0	52.6	56.5	59.5	61.8	64.3	66.8	69.9	70.0	60.3
1976	do.	69.0	69.0	69.9	70.0	70.6	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0			
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1974	do.	51.1	51.8	52.1	46.4	43.0	40.1	41.0	50.8	50.5	50.6	54.9	60.6	49.4
1975	do.	58.7	52.2	50.5	50.6	53.3	54.7	57.1	58.8	58.5	59.3	60.5	57.0	55.9
1976	do.	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1	50.8	50.2	51.0	50.4	49.7	48.6			
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1974	do.	63.2	57.9	54.9	43.7	46.0	50.3	50.7	54.8	56.3	55.4	55.5	57.0	53.8
1975	do.	57.0	56.7	55.2	55.0	55.0	56.0	57.0	60.3	62.1	65.1	67.2	68.0	59.6
1976	do.	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4	69.4	70.0	70.0	69.6	69.6	70.0			
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1974	Cents	64.8	65.1	67.0	68.3	67.9	69.0	68.4	67.4	67.3	67.4	67.2	68.8	67.4
1975	do.	68.7	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.2	71.0	73.9	70.6	70.4	68.6	67.6	68.8	69.9
1976	do.	68.9	69.6	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.2	71.3	69.8	68.5	67.7			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.—Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios—Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1974	Dollars	152	153	151	144	137	137	141	168	163	168	167	164	154
1975	do.	160	151	143	146	145	144	145	150	149	148	143	143	147
1976	do.	143	143	145	144	146	156	162	158	159	154			
Broiler grower feed														
1974	do.	170	169	165	156	151	151	157	180	176	185	183	180	169
1975	do.	176	167	161	164	161	162	161	163	164	164	158	160	163
1976	do.	158	160	160	159	161	172	181	177	179	170			
Turkey grower feed														
1974	do.	172	172	168	162	156	153	158	188	183	189	187	184	173
1975	do.	178	168	161	165	164	165	163	168	170	170	164	165	167
1976	do.	165	165	165	162	165	178	187	181	181	177			
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1974	Cents	293	310	301	246	269	292	328	365	353	385	349	355	321
1975	do.	309	300	296	304	288	291	286	317	301	276	264	259	291
1976	do.	267	271	269	269	286	302	298	---	268	254			
Soybean meal, 44 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1974	Dollars	172	160	147	117	109	100	138	156	138	168	141	143	141
1975	do.	129	117	118	122	118	121	124	134	134	126	120	125	124
1976	do.	128	133	128	127	152	188	194	173	179				
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[10]														
1974	Pounds	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6
1975	do.	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
1976	do.	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5			
Turkey[11]														
1974	do.	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.2
1975	do.	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.0
1976	do.	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5			
Egg[11]														
1974	do.	8.8	8.4	7.5	7.0	6.2	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	7.2	6.9
1975	do.	7.2	7.2	7.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.5	7.1	8.1	9.0	7.2
1976	do.	8.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	6.9	6.9	7.7	7.8	7.9			
Tables 61-62.—Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1974	Mil.	277.5	254.2	296.5	288.9	297.5	275.9	251.1	244.1	220.8	217.1	228.4	252.5	3,104.4
1975	Mil.	253.7	239.0	278.1	275.3	285.1	274.7	270.8	268.3	247.6	249.9	254.6	271.9	3,169.1
1976	Mil.	278.1	267.9	309.1	309.5	319.5	307.7	302.3	294.0	270.0	267.2			
Egg-type														
1974	Mil.	35.1	37.7	46.2	54.6	52.1	43.4	36.7	34.9	32.1	35.5	33.0	32.2	473.4
1975	Mil.	34.8	36.6	45.4	47.4	48.0	40.9	38.1	34.9	33.9	34.8	28.4	30.7	453.8
1976	Mil.	35.7	39.2	49.1	50.8	47.6	41.9	38.0	38.1	37.4	36.5			
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1974	Thou.	2,489	2,474	2,906	2,795	2,754	2,525	2,259	2,288	2,160	2,141	2,171	2,302	29,264
1975	Thou.	2,211	2,134	2,754	2,492	2,874	2,459	2,466	2,645	2,647	2,449	2,306	2,379	29,816
1976	Thou.	2,423	2,556	2,907	3,104	3,164	2,648	2,797	2,836	2,584	2,668			
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1974	Thou.	20,769	20,893	21,232	21,495	22,246	21,496	20,831	20,362	20,309	20,720	20,927	21,028	
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,057	17,666	18,161	18,365	19,079	
1976	Thou.	19,397	19,692	20,035	20,471	20,786	20,338	20,225	19,774	19,871	20,312	20,771	21,288	
1977	Thou.	21,487	21,978	22,435	22,596	22,708								
Table 63.—Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1974	Thou.	1,324	1,193	1,502	1,478	1,381	1,381	1,006	779	515	1,185	1,302	1,284	14,420
1975	Thou.	1,202	1,367	1,406	1,657	1,526	1,400	1,524	1,319	747	1,008	1,244	1,518	15,918
1976	Thou.	1,794	1,438	1,909	1,978	1,804	1,824	1,860	1,163	576	1,009			
Total heavy breeds														
1974	Thou.	9,572	12,794	17,938	19,172	18,687	15,718	11,058	5,273	2,655	3,008	3,685	5,239	125,599
1975	Thou.	7,487	10,657	14,719	16,960	17,568	16,140	12,734	7,329	3,590	3,457	4,147	6,370	121,158
1976	Thou.	8,719	12,278	16,566	17,770	18,367	17,748	13,474	6,968	3,676	3,871			
All breeds														
1974	Thou.	10,896	13,987	19,440	20,650	20,068	17,099	12,954	6,052	3,170	4,193	4,987	6,523	140,019
1975	Thou.	8,689	12,024	16,125	18,617	19,094	17,540	14,258	8,648	4,337	4,465	5,391	7,888	137,076
1976	Thou.	10,513	13,716	18,475	19,748	20,171	19,572	15,354	8,131	4,252	4,880			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1974	Mil. lb.	43.2	37.7	35.7	39.4	43.6	49.6	55.6	59.1	63.4	65.6	64.7	60.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.1	51.0	46.7	42.8	44.7	47.8	52.1	51.9	51.0	46.6	42.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	36.3	31.7	28.6	29.3	29.4	29.1	30.3	31.6	31.0	28.7	29.1		
Shell eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	34	23	42	59	66	86	89	95	78	70	73	52	
1975	1,000 cs.	36	32	48	32	26	68	82	84	80	72	55	40	
1976	1,000 cs.	22	13	21	26	26	22	25	58	66	46	29		
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,128	978	946	1,056	1,169	1,341	1,496	1,591	1,683	1,730	1,711	1,574	
1975	1,000 cs.	1,408	1,350	1,340	1,214	1,110	1,200	1,291	1,402	1,393	1,364	1,235	1,108	
1976	1,000 cs.	940	817	747	767	771	759	792	858	850	772	766		
Tables 69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1974	Mil. lb.	281.0	274.0	250.5	235.9	225.0	227.4	265.8	335.8	431.8	528.7	554.6	372.0	
1975	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	239.9	207.3	180.2	162.7	193.2	248.6	328.3	409.8	472.4	286.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	195.2	187.1	159.9	140.0	114.5	120.5	177.8	262.0	369.9	457.7	512.7		
Chicken														
Hens														
1974	Mil. lb.	47.2	43.9	40.4	44.4	46.5	53.1	57.6	62.7	64.8	61.3	60.0	55.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.7	55.6	56.6	59.1	57.1	56.9	54.3	52.9	49.1	44.7	41.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	39.2	34.7	31.4	29.4	32.3	30.1	34.3	36.8	38.5	37.9	40.5		
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1974	Mil. lb.	33.4	32.5	32.6	34.6	33.8	37.5	36.6	34.3	34.2	35.4	36.3	37.0	
1975	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.5	32.9	28.0	27.8	24.1	22.6	21.7	22.5	22.7	21.9	21.5	
1976	Mil. lb.	22.3	20.2	19.4	18.9	19.0	17.4	20.0	25.7	26.6	24.3	23.8		
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1974	Thou. lb.	11,159	9,672	13,610	9,511	8,106	8,014	13,272	8,890	8,179	8,650	7,866	8,413	115,340
1975	Thou. lb.	10,268	9,841	9,903	11,620	12,595	11,858	10,851	11,931	10,615	13,046	11,483	13,720	137,731
1976	Thou. lb.	16,263	12,881	16,254	17,226	23,950	24,940	20,438	39,409	26,048				
Turkeys														
1974	Thou. lb.	4,306	3,477	4,732	2,195	2,770	3,574	2,897	2,788	1,924	4,108	3,664	3,078	39,594
1975	Thou. lb.	1,384	2,551	2,979	2,952	2,851	3,807	4,389	4,023	6,293	7,139	5,368	4,507	47,244
1976	Thou. lb.	5,135	5,993	7,719	3,958	3,864	6,267	4,060	4,513	4,923				
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1974	Mil. lb.	9.3	8.7	---	---	---	---	1.9	3.5	3.0	6.5	7.1	7.9	47.9
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	30.0
1976	Mil. lb.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---	---	---	4.5	5.2	3.3			
Canned boned chicken														
1974	Doz. cans	193.8	193.8	---	---	---	---	91.8	234.6	224.4	163.2	13.6	---	1,115.1
1975	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	105.4	---	---	57.8	88.4	105.4	336.6	693.5
1976	Doz. cans	231.2	133.5	112.2	---	---	---	---	61.2	20.4	190.4			
Canned boney turkey														
1974	Doz. cans	95.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	95.2
1975	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1976	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	78.2	23.8			
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1974	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	9.3	3.3	15.8	9.5	3.7	9.8	51.4
1975	Mil. lb.	2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.1	6.9	10.4	---	---	21.6
1976	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.6	13.9	14.4			

[1] Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2] Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3] Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5] Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6] Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7] Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [8] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [9] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [10] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [11] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [12] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [13] Placements reported by leading breeders. [14] Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous.

LIST OF TABLES

Table	*Title*	*Page*
1	Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance	2
2	Egg-type hatchery operations, United States and 5 States reporting weekly	7
3	Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected States, 1975-76	7
4	Egg supplies available to civilians for food, January-March, April-June, and July-September, 1975-76	8
5	Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1975-76	10
6	Estimated July-December 1977 egg price/supply relationships	11
7	Eggs: Supply and utilization July-December 1965-75	12
8	Broilers: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1974-76	13
9	Estimated 2nd quarter 1977 broiler price/consumption relationships	15
10	Young chicken: Supply and utilization, second quarter, 1965-76	16
11	Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States reporting weekly, 1975-76	17
12	Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type, advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 1975-77	17
13	Cold storage holdings of high protein foods, November 1, 1976 with comparisons	18
14	Estimated costs and returns for market eggs	20
15	Estimated costs and returns for broilers	20
16	Estimated costs and returns for turkeys	21
17	Factor influencing and indicative of the demand for eggs and poultry, 1965-76	22
18	Turkeys: Number raised on farms, 1975-76	23
19	Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chickens, for selected cities and average for 10 cities	24
20	Selected poultry and egg statistics	25

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